Thursday, June 9, 2011 | A 4 | Standalone | Vol. 28 | No. 181 | P18 | www.inquirer.net | Metro Manila | PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Rabusa files plunder raps vs 2 generals, 3 auditors

By Marlon Ramos

FOR GEORGE Rabusa, entering accountability from those who benefited from the "fund conversion" in the Armed Forces is no difficult task, especially unpeeling a 50-page book 4,000 times over.

Armed with a truckload of documents and accompanied by his lawyer and six Cebuano aides, who financed the preparation of the documentary evidence, the retired military budget officer arrived by noon to the Department of Justice (DOJ) to make good on his promise to pursue criminal cases against the other persons involved in the misuse of military funds.

He filed an amended complaint, adding five more names to the list of 17 in the plunder case he filed in the DOJ nearly two months ago.

"It is only now that we have completed reproducing the needed documents and obtained the affidavits from additional witnesses," Rabusa said in a news briefing.

RABUSA, A3

P-Noy buddies under fire

House seeks probe of Puno, Torres, Ochoa, etc.

By Cynthia D. Rabasa

OPPOSITION lawmakers are training their guns on the "kalayaw, kalkar and kabarilan" of President Aquino whom Malacañang has purportedly been coddling.

Speaking remotely at a press conference, Rizal Minority Leader Edcel Lagman announced the filing of a yet unnumbered resolution calling for the investigation of Interior Undersecretary Rico Puno for alleged bribery, Land and Transportation Office (LTO) chief Virginia Torres for alleged illegal modelling, Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. for his reported P40-million mansion, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima for the alleged filing of tax charges against political enemies and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) Chair Margarita Juico for alleged irregularities in her office, including its transfer from the Quezon Institute to the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC).

PAGE A2

Virginia Torres: Mar's 'foot soldier' / A13

FLEXITIMED ON PI2M Batangas Rep. Mitos Collantes (right) leads fellow lawmakers Lincoln Villafuerte, Angelo Palmones and Ruben Gahimungan in eating pinikpikan ("bungga") at the House of Representatives to protest that the fowl ought to be extinct, and is safe to consume. (Story on Page A2.)

China blasts PH anew on Spratlys claim

BEIJING—China stepped up criticism of the Philippines in a fresh exchange of invectives over disputed waters, calling on Manila to stop infringing its sovereignty with irresponsible claims over the Spratlys.

"China demands that the Philippines stop unilateral actions that damage China's sovereignty and interests or can and could lead to the expansion and complication of the South China Sea dispute, and stop creating irresponsible comments that are inconsistent with facts," said foreign ministry spokeswoman Hong Lei.

Withdrawing shrugged off the Chinese statement.

"We are very careful in crafting these statements, and we are not in a dare set forth up our statements and have it on here," President Aquino's deputy

NEWS, A4

Enrile orders coral smuggling suspects arrested

By Christian V. Esguerra

DESPITE 2010 are cracking in whose law enforcers have forced to travel.

Interested over the government's failure to stop massive marine poaching, the Senate yesterday ordered the arrest of Olivia Li and husband Joe Peng, who are believed to be behind the failed attempt to smuggle some 300 million metallic black sea corals.

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile himself moved to arrest the Chinese couple following their failure to show up at the environment committee hearing into widespread Chinese-led rhino coral poaching in marine waters.

"We will have a sentiment against this man and we will show these law enforcement agencies how we do a manhunt," Enrile said.

"You cannot police the entire nation and the only way to do it is to send some of the poachers to jail and let's see if anybody will do it again," he added.

At one point, Enrile told law enforcers to be more aggressive.

"You cannot stop poaching in the marine resources of this country unless you shoot some of them. That's how brutal it is. That's law enforcement," he said.

The senator became furious when he learned that the National Bureau of Investigation had filed at least two poaching cases against Peng, a Chinese national, operating a company with his wife in Zamboanga City, one in 2008 and another in 2009.

But until now, both cases are still "pending for preliminary investigation" in the Zamboanga City prosecutor's office, under a certain Pearl Amoyen Ar, according to Manuel M.

PAGE A4

'Weird' Weiner: An ethical lapse or clearly mental case?

NEW YORK—The ouster of Democratic US congressman Anthony D. Weiner of New York is being hedged by Democratic Party aides with the House ethics committee, a building storm where the case will remain and either it, or its part on by.

Those aides must be hoping to keep out that Weiner departs before the conclusion of investigations passed up and sanctions issued the lone-tail Democrat announces when he composed his apology.

WEINER, A13

'If the mountain is destroyed, what's left?'

By Di Yap and Rico T. Ocbinaldo

PEREZ MAGAS has lived off the bounty of Mt. Mantalingahan in Palawan all his life. He fills the soil for rice or corn to feed his family. He harvests resin from tall pines to sell for P10 per pack when cash is running low.

The father of seven also takes to the forest whenever a loved one falls ill, gathering roots to make a healing brew. At 68, Magas, a leader of a tribe also known as Bolanons, knows he doesn't have much, but whatever he lacks the mountain can provide.

That's why during harvest time, his grateful tribe prepares one cakes and the devotion agony as offerings in a duty addressed as Pangoon, whom they implore for continued blessings.

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NEWS
Laughing cicadas, other PH species discovered / A8

NEWS
PCSO voids P42-B deal with Aussie firm / A2

ACROSS
Court stops transfer of funds to ARMM / A15

SPORTS
Ailing Dirk does an MJ, helps Mavs knot series / A17

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

Metro Manila	Cloudy with rain	Scattered thunderstorms
Baguio	Cloudy with rain	Mostly cloudy
Dagupan City	Cloudy with rain	Mostly cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with rain	Scattered thunderstorms
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with rain	Mostly cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with rain	Mostly cloudy
Virac	Cloudy with rain	Mostly cloudy
Iloilo	Cloudy with rain	Mostly cloudy
Cebu	Cloudy with rain	Mostly cloudy
Tacloban	Cloudy with rain	Mostly cloudy
Zamboanga	Cloudy with rain	Mostly cloudy
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with rain	Mostly cloudy
Davao	Cloudy with rain	Mostly cloudy
Cotabato	Cloudy with rain	Mostly cloudy

2 P.M.

LUZ	3 6
VIS	2 8 1 9
MIN	2 3 5

QUARTERS

LUZ	4 3 5
VIS	7 9 2
MIN	9 7 5

4 P.M.

LUZ	9 7 9 5

MEGALOTTO 6/45

6 10 15 30 42 44

P19,109,185.20

6/55 GRAND LOTTO

19 21 28 40 46 55

P30,000,000.00

(LOTTO DRAWS from 6/55 LOTTO, 6/49 to 6/42, PCSO Grand Lotto)

PCSO voids ₱42-B deal with Australian firm

By Tina G. Santos

THE PHILIPPINE Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) has declared null and void the 50-year contract worth US$2 billion, which its previous administration had entered into with an Australian firm for the supply of thermal paper specialty lotto cards.

In a resolution approved on April 21, the PCSO Board of Directors declared the joint venture agreement between the agency and FMA Group of Companies null and void "for patent violation of applicable laws, rules and regulations."

"Whereafter, the board resolved, to revoke Resolution No. 2171, dated 09 December 2009, approving the JVA between PCSO and FMA," part of the board's resolution reads.

Lawyer Ma. Alexa Tolentino, one of the PCSO directors, said the contract was illegal because "it was simply a supply contract in the guise of a joint venture agreement."

She then clarified that when the Board of Directors of the PCSO's previous administration submitted the deal for approval in 2009, then PCSO Chair Sergie Valencia, had questioned it.

"Sir Oblena(sic) didn't want it," Tolentino said of Valencia.

Under the contract, the Australian firm is set to invest P4.5 billion for the project, while the value of the paper contract which the PCSO would pay for 50 years would be P42 billion.

"That's the numbers we got from disadvantageous to the government," she said.

According to Tolentino , the agreement stipulates the establishment of a thermal coating plant primarily for export sales of thermal paper.

The thermal coating plant was also supposed to provide the PCSO with thermal paper and other consumables for its gambling activities, including future games.

She then said that she was trying down PCSO for 50 years for the supply of papers exclusively from this particular group is indeed questionable," she said.

"First of all, it's not within the PCSO purpose and mandate to engage in the manufacturing or producing and exporting paper. Our mandate is to operate sweepstakes and lotto activities for charity," Tolentino said. "Second, it violated the Procurement Act of the Philippines, which requires bidding for suppliers."

"Let's say it's a good deal ... but you don't go to the office for half a century," she added.

She also cited the recent opinion of the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC), which also declared the agreement void and inoperative because "it is undertaken in circumvent Republic Act 9184 in the procurement of supplies and avoids COA (Commission on Audit) audit."

The OGCC added that the deal was not only grossly disadvantageous to government but also unfair to other paper suppliers and results in monopoly.

Tolentino said the PCSO's contract with its existing paper supplier, Manila Security Corp., a TMA subsidiary, ends this year and getting the new supplier will have to go through the regular bidding process.

She added that the agency's decision to declare the contract null and void "preempted THEN to file a case against the PCSO.

"They want us to honor the contract, but they cannot force us; it's illegal," she stressed.

As early as 2009, former Senate President Jovito Salonga together with Senator Kiko Pangilinan, a group of lawyers monitoring Philippine courts and quasi-judicial bodies, has been questioning the propriety of the deal.

Purisima confirmed, Brillantes bypassed

PURISIMA

THE COMMISSION on Appointments (CA) yesterday bypassed the confirmation of Sixto Brillantes' appointment as chairman of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) after many senators were unhappy with him by Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano.

In contrast, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima breezed through the confirmation process, brewing only Justice Secretary Leila de Lima and Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman as the only members of the Cabinet who have yet to hurdle the CA.

Cayetano confronted Brillantes on his stand on Comelec issues where he was still awaiting his lawyer, Evan Lee, to give pertinent data last year's automated elections in an old complaint against a "turncoat" division within the Comelec.

Cayetano's wife Lani was and won by a slim margin against Brillantes' former client, Associate Justice Dante Tinga, in the mayoral race in Taguig City in 2013.

The senator asked Brillantes to already the head of the supposed-

By noontime Comelec division.

"I don't really want to mention names but the person has retired already," Brillantes replied.

By failing to get confirmation on the last of day congressional session, he will again face the CA on Aug. 10 or four days before he celebration his birthday.

"Gusto naman nyamin na sila ay ma-confirm," he told reporters. "I hope (that I would be able to be confirmed by that time so I would) get a nice birthday" Christine F. Fajardo

STRANDED Passengers wait at Mata Terminal 3, after 31 domestic flights were canceled due to bad weather

Bad weather cancels 35 flights

A TOTAL of 35 domestic flights and an incoming international flight were canceled yesterday due to bad weather, according to the Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa).

At least 15 local flights of Cebu Pacific were canceled, according to Miaa.

A low pressure area off Oriental Mindoro is bringing rains over Metro Manila and other parts of Luzon and the Visayas, along with a respite from the heat.

The canceled Cebu Pacific flights were SJ 895, SJ 893, SJ 909, SJ 915, SJ 919, SJ 895, SJ 899, and SJ 913, all bound for Caticlan. Also canceled were their returning flights (Iloilo-Caticlan-Manila).

Other canceled Cebu Pacific flights: SJ 823 bound for Iloilo; Conandaway; and the return flight SJ 822; SJ 771 bound for Pagadian City; SJ 821 and SJ 822 bound for Naga City and the return flight SJ 822; SJ 532 bound for Busuanga, Palawan, and the return flight SJ 532; and SJ 555 bound for Cebu City.

Four Air Philippines flights were also canceled: 2P 509 bound for Naga City and the return flight 2P 660; 2P 540 bound for Caticlan and the return flight 2P 646.

Its Mindanao, Pacific and Air Philippines flights emanate from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) Terminal 3.

From Naia Terminal 4, also known as the old Manila Domestic Terminal, four boat flights were canceled: 461 and 402, both bound for Surigao, northern Palawan; and 333 and 463, bound for Tablas Island and El Nido, Palawan, respectively.

Also canceled were four flights 314 and 464 (to/fro Tablas and El Nido.

Meanwhile, an incoming international flight—Cebu Pacific's SJ 972 from Beijing—was also canceled yesterday, and the Miaa.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said the low pressure area was located 50 kilometers northeast of Calapan, Oriental Mindoro, as of 2:00 p.m. yesterday. Jerry E. Esplanada and Leila B. Salaverria

Solons hold 'tilapia, bangus' eating sessions

By Cynthia D. Balana
and Jocelyn R. Uy

IN THE FACE of the widespread fish scare over the massive fishkill that devastated fish-farming areas in Batangas and Pangasinan, legislators investigating the incident yesterday led their staff and officials from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) in hosting an-banque (milkfish) and tilapia dishes in Congress.

The fish were said to have been harvested from Taal Lake in the morning and cooked immediately after they were bought.

"It's tasty and nutritious," said Cebu Gov. Hilario Davide III, who chairs the committee on aquaculture and fisheries that is conducting a probe with the committee on agriculture.

"We hope we can help remove the stigma on these products and help our industry," said Rep. Sonny Gallanosa, whose congressional district covers Taal Lake which was heavily affected by the fishkill.

Agham party-list member Angelo Palmones said it was safe to eat tilapia as long as it is from the lake and not bought from the market.

"What we're trying to correct is the perception that it is toxic and this is the best way we can help our fisherfolk who are affected by the incident whose livelihood comes from banguss and tilapia," said Bulakan Rep. Jonkie Enriquez. Those who had suggested the banguss and tilapia eating session.

However, the session was marred by an angry exchange between Taal fisherman and Batangas Rep. Mark Leandro Mendiola, chair of the agriculture committee, on one side and Capiz Rep. Jane Castro.

Castro had emotionally remarked that the banguss and tilapia should have been better fed to the crocodiles in the zoo, not the "crocodiles" in the House.

Gallanosa and Mendiola angrily ordered the statement to be stricken off the record.

Mendiola, however, insisted that she had been hearing rumors about crocodiles in Congress, adding that it was a matter of public knowledge.

She later backtracked after seeing the angry red faces of Gallanosa and Mendiola. She said the rumor probably referred to the previous Congresses and not members of the current 15th Congress who are supposed to be following the "doing matuwid" campaign push.

This feather angered Mendiola who protested, "I was also in the 14th Congress! To which Castro retorted, "so was my husband."

The verbal tussle came to an end only when Salonga requested that the statement be stricken off the record and proceeded to ask for the next question.

The Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) meanwhile assured its members suffering food poisoning caused by tilapia fish that the illness is compensable. PhilHealth will provide financial coverage for hospitalization and medication.

NEWSBRIEFS

Plane turns turtle in Isabela

A PASSENGER plane crash-landed and ceased turtle on the runway of the Tuguegarao Municipal Airport in Barangay Malacas in Tuguegarao town airport, Isabela province at about 10 a.m. on Wednesday, slightly injuring the pilot and two passengers, the police said. Based on reports reaching Camp Crame, the accident involved a Cessna passenger plane in Cyclone aircraft with tail number RP C3288, piloted by Capt. Reynald B. Tagalog, 58, with passengers Ahmad Fonk Abdal, 29, an Iranian student pilot, and Joseph Dingano, an aircraft mechanic. "Initial investigation conducted by the Tuguegarao police disclosed that the nose front wheel of the aircraft malfunctioned while in the process of landing, causing the pilot to lose control," Philippine National Police spokesperson Chief Supt. Agrimero Cruz Jr. said. The aircraft eventually landed in opposite direction position, he added. *Ch'Yap*

Six killed in NPA attacks

A SPIKING of attacks by communist rebels in Mindanao killed six people, including two security personnel, as the guerrillas pressured the government to release jailed comrades, officials said Wednesday. Two special forces soldiers ambushed while en route to secure a government convoy were among those killed in seven attacks Tuesday initiated by the New People's Army rebels in eastern Mindanao Island, said military spokesperson Col. Leopoldo Galvez. Another soldier, a policeman, a government militiaman and a village leader also died in the separate attacks. Two guerrillas were wounded and captured after raiding a police outpost in the Davao Oriental provincial capital, Mati City, Galvez said. *AP*

241 Pinoys repatriated from Saudi

ANOTHER 241 overseas Filipino workers and their dependents, all expatriates from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, have returned to the country, according to the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA). The repatriates, including six children, arrived Sunday night on board an Etihad Airlines flight from the western Saudi city. They were met at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 1 by representatives of the DFA's office of migrant workers' affairs and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration. In a statement, the DFA yesterday said "most of the repatriates, who also departed the authorized payment of tax in Saudi Arabia, were earlier sheltered at the Philippine consulate-operated Support Aqj Terminal." *Jerry E. Esplanada*

Graft raps vs Silay City officials

AN FY2 MILL title computerization project has landed officials of Silay City in Negros Occidental in hot water, luring Ombudsman Orlando Casimiro to last ordered the filing of graft charges before the Sandiganbayan against Mayor Jose Montelibano, Vice Mayor Mark Andrew Arthur Golez, Councilors Jose Raymundo Lucero and Joselith Gallego, and former Councilors Michael Marcella, Mario Torres, Ramon Jose Wahlito Sr., Salvador Segovia and April Grace delos Reyes for allegedly improperly procuring an information and communications technology project in 2008. Also ordered charged were City Administrator Ignacio Salmorigo City Treasurer Flor Jimenez, City Accountant Florencio Antonio Jr., City Legal Officer and Bids and Awards Committee Chair Kara Amos Quevedo, BAC Members Paolo Hechanova Jr., Rina dela Cruz, Ricardo Ledesma, Jr., and Sonia Cordero, BAC Secretariat Head Maximo Tronio, BAC Secretariat Members Aston Paredes, Alice Soto, and Vilma Doorne, BAC Technical Working Group Headliner Boy Pulalenga, BAC-TWG Members Giovanni Dalisay, Jesus Dapon, Alvin Filgara and Jose Simeon Fernandez, and Advis Economy of the Quisumbing and Pilar Integrated Development Corporation. The Ombudsman said the direct procurement method violated the Government Procurement Reform Act. *Lolit F. Zabarenz*

Palace continues scholarships

THE #GMRF administration will continue providing scholarships to the children that former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo said and "transitioning payed" (paper boats) to Malacanang to communicate their decision during the early days of the term. Presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said Social Welfare and Development Secretary Corazon Soliman has committed to continue the scholarships for the three, one of whom is now reportedly one year away from graduating from college. Deputy Presidential Spokesperson Abigail Valte said Malacanang was still verifying reports that there are still 21 more scholars of the previous administration whose scholarships have reportedly been discontinued and whose enrollment have been made more uncertain. *Norman Bordadora*

ARMM poll postponement hit

By Cynthia D. Balana

SENATE opposition lawmakers yesterday said they would challenge before the Supreme Court the constitutionality of a bill postponing the elections at the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) to August once it is signed into law by President Aquino.

Minority Leader Juan Ponce Enrile Lagman questioned the passage of the final draft in the plenary of the House of Representatives the other day without the benefit of a bicameral conference committee despite differences in the House and the Senate versions.

"We were there will be petitions to be interposed before the Supreme Court," Lagman said in a press conference called by the minority bloc in the House.

"The opposition congressmen] can join these petitioners or we can opt to file our own petition," he stressed.

He said that under the rules, there is a need for a bicameral conference committee if there are differing versions between the House and Senate versions unless the House accedes to the Senate version.

He lamented that House members who voted for the final draft of the proposed law abandoned the House version reflected was supposed to defend it, all in the spirit of expediency.

Lagman's died as commission issued the provisions allowing the Senate President and Speaker to recommend to the President the appointment of officers in charge to the Senate version, and allowing these OICs to run in the midterm elections for the Senate version.

In the Senate version, a body to be formed will recommend OICs who are prohibited from working for either they are holding to an acting capacity during the ARMM elections.

Zambales Rep. Hillegon Magsaysay said that allowing the President to appoint OICs and allowing them to run for ARMM elections would disadvantage other candidates because they would have access to resources while in office.

Magsaysay blamed Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. for readily acceding to the Senate version without the benefit of a conference committee.

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GMA fears Morales' appointment as next Ombudsman

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Marlen Ranoa

PHILSTAR now Ombudsman expected to make her a "principal target," former President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has lodged with the Judicial and Bar Council.

JBC) her opposition to the bid of a Supreme Court magistrate to be the next Ombudsman.

"If appointed Ombudsman, I do sincerely believe that Justice Conchita Carpio Morales would not have the required independence and impartiality in rendering cases involving me and my immediate family," said Arroyo in a letter to the JBC dated June 6.

She said the JBC, which will recommend three candidates for the post to the President, should have "no difficulty" in choosing applicants who have "probity and independence" in act on cases brought before the Ombudsman.

Morales is set to retire on June 19 and is one of 27 candidates for the post vacated by Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez who resigned just before the Senate was to have started her impeachment trial.

Morales is a cousin of lawyer Justice Antonio Carpio, a founding partner of an influential law partnership dubbed "The Four," which reached to be legal counsel of Arroyo and her family until they had to falling out shortly after the "Hello Garci" scandal.

In her letter, Arroyo said that she would be the "principal target" of complaints which would be filed before the Ombudsman, "taking into account all relevant circumstances, including the campaign promises of President Aquino, the creation of the Truth Commission under Executive Order No. 1, and the effort to remove Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez which was only aborted because of her resignation".

She said Morales had "consistently ruled" against the high court's rulings favorable to her administration while supporting decisions "involving efforts to investigate graft-and-corruption cases committed" during her tenure.

"While her views did not generally prevail because the Supreme Court is a collegiate court of a Chief Justice and 14 Associate Justices, the Ombudsman would be acting alone in the performance of her responsibilities," she said.

Another Arroyo ally former Justice Secretary Raul Gonzales, separately registered his opposition to the application of Morales and lawyer Francisco Chavez, a former solicitor general.

Gonzales and Morales and Chavez failed to measure up to the Constitution's requirement for the Ombudsman to be "a person of probity and independence," saying Morales "has chosen bias" against Arroyo and those close to her.

As for Chavez, Gonzales said that he investigated him for buying Rexona using public funds for his own personal use during the presidency of the late Corazon Aquino.

He also claimed that Chavez was facing disbarment cases before the Commission on Bar Discipline of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines which "should make him unfit to become the next Ombudsman whose probity, integrity and morality must be beyond question."

Melita Manipol, Supreme Court spokeswoman and administrator, said the JBC may decide to bring up Arroyo and Gonzales's letters during the public interview for applicants for the Ombudsman post from June 22 to 29.

Expect lower power rates

By Amy R. Roma

CUSTOMERS of Manila Electric Co., the country's biggest power distributor, can expect the distribution, supply and metering components of their electricity bills to go down over the next four years, after the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) approved lower rates under the performance based regulation (PBR) scheme.

The ERC said the distribution, supply and metering charges will go down to P1.1828 per kilowatt hour in 2012 and then to P1.0617 per kWh in 2013, from the current charges amounting to P1.3060 per kWh.

The new charges were approved under Meralco's application for cross hitch by the starting salary period covering July 2011 to June 2015.

"We are beginning to see the objective of the shift to performance based regulation being realized, to put pressure on the utilities to improve their systems and to make efficient in their operations. We expect this to continue and bring more benefits in the succeeded to terms of better service and more affordable and reasonable electricity rates," said ERC Executive Director Fernando Jaramillo.

Even newly approved ERC charges are much lower than what Meralco sought in its application. It asked an increase in the distribution, supply and metering components ranging from P1.3066 per kWh to as high as P1.9656 per kWh. With these increases, Meralco said it intended to invest as much as P44 billion for the whole third regulatory period.

The approval of the lower charges comes days the ERC had disallowed certain projects in Meralco's proposed capital expenditures, deeming these to be not fully justified. The ruling in a significant drop in the figures for the return on capital component of Meralco's approved revenues.

The ERC also adopted a more stringent performance incentive scheme than what was proposed by Meralco, mandating that the utility strictly observe the approved performance indicators and giving it the appropriate incentive for it to improve its services.

The ERC decision paves the way for Meralco to apply to have the approved charges of P1.1828 per kWh by 2012 translated into cash schedules for its various customer classes.

Only the other day, Meralco announced that customers' electricity bills would go up this month because of the rise in the generation charge by 51 centavos per kWh.

Domestic terminal mulls expansion

By Jerry E. Esplanada

ONLINE the aging Terminal 1 and the controversial Terminal 2 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA), Terminal 4—also known as the old Manila Domestic Terminal—has been completely renovated.

"That is the benefit of being small. It is manageable," said the facility's chief, Francisco Gonzales.

According to Gonzales, Terminal 4, which is prefer to call the "Summer Terminal," is still a "hands-free airport."

"The terminal area is still sufficient. Our passengers can breeze in and out of the airport area within 15 minutes," he said.

Still, "the situation becomes tense during the summer months, or peak seasons when passenger traffic swells as high as 8,000 'per day'," according to Gonzales.

In April 2010, Terminal 4 registered 121,914 and 111,193 departing and arriving passengers, respectively the highest for the entire year.

"We really do great business during the summer," said Gonzales.

"In think 'think' Terminal 4 practically died after Cebu Pacific pulled out in August 2008, registering passengers of only 180 to 300 a day," he said.

From a total of 1,280,1002 passengers last year, Terminal 4 expects nearly 1.3 million passengers this year.

"The average daily flights have been increasing since July 2010. From 24, it was nearly 36 last month. In some months, the increase was over 100 percent," Gonzales said.

He said Terminal 4 also have the same problem as the other terminals, that is, runway congestion.

"Madrid we'll want to accommodate more flights, even the Department of Transportation and Communications is encouraging other airlines to use other [domestic] airports as their base," said Gonzales.

That is why Terminal 4 plans to increase its operating area by expanding in the nearby Cebu Pacific cargo facility, he said.

"If we do not expand, we will end up in the same situation we were in Otino years ago, a congested terminal with not enough waiting space for passengers waiting for their flights, long queues at the security check and probably even in the customs means," Gonzales said.

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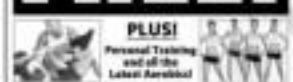

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Paje orders filing of raps vs illegal fish pen operators

By Leila B. Salaverria and TJ Burgonio
INQUIRER Investigative Reporter

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Ramon Paje has ordered the filing of criminal charges against operators of illegal fish pens in Taal Lake, side of a massive fishkill that has crippled local livelihood and the country's sulfide industry over the past two weeks.

Paje yesterday said he had directed the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau to file the charges because the 23,940-hectare lake was considered a protected area.

He also questioned the prolifération of fencings owned the barons in Taal, which have been found to be overstocking their pens with tilapia and bangus fingerlings, a practice that led to the depletion of the water's oxygen levels, suffocating the fish.

Under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (Nipas) Act, the Taal Lake and adjacent protected areas should be free from any kind of structure or business enterprise without a permit.

Violations of the Nipas law are punishable with fines of up to half a million pesos and imprisonment of up to six years.

The Nipas law considers land as one of "identified portions of land and waters set aside by reason of their unique physical and biological significance, managed to enhance biological diversity and protected against destructive human exploitation."

Still about greed

At the Senate, fisheries officials yesterday contended that overstocking and overfeeding of fish cages, not climate change, mainly caused the fishkills in Taal and also in Sabangan Channel in Pangasinan.

"Yes, it's still about greed," Paje's boss, Jim Sevilla, agriculture secretary, said in a Senate inquiry into the ecological disaster that had left some P301 million worth of bangus and tilapia dead.

"Overstocking of fish motivated by the desire to make more money," Perez said.

In Talisay town in Batangas alone, the fishkill hit 329 illegal, overstocked cages out of the 7,000-fish pens in the area, he told the Senate committee on agriculture and food.

Assistant Agriculture Secretary Salvador Salvacion placed the blame on both overstocking and extreme events.

Salvacion said the Department of Agriculture had received reports that some overstocked cages were found to be 10 meters deep, way past the ideal depth of only 6 meters.

"The ideal stocking area is 10,000 to 50,000 fingerlings. Some fish cages were containing 100,000 stocks of fingerlings," he explained.

A natural event also—the mixing of cold and hot waters in the lake—caused asphyxiation of the biomass, no one to the surface, which, in turn, "asphyxiated" the fish, Salvacion said.

"It is a way the fungus deceased," he said.

In Iseki and Bolinao towns in Pangasinan, the crowded buildup of fish cages in the Alaminos Channel hindered the country's natural flow and reduced its oxygen content, Perez said.

Nesia namar (Environment) suggests, if it is narrow channel, let it remain period of the pen; cash cages because as soon, he don't recommend placing no many fish cages. It's a high risk area. Unfortunately, the number of cages is more than what the area's carrying capacity" he said.

"The major cause of the fishkill is unmistakable. The issue of unsanitary area only a contributing factor. I agree it's good," Perez later told reporters.

In Gil Juinio, deputy director for research at the University of the Philippines' Marine Science Institute, also agreed that overstocking and not climate change held to the fish to Taal.

A 2006 study on the lake, Juinio said, noted significant differences in temperature and oxygen level between surface water and subsurface water of the lake.

"Below a certain depth, oxygen is very, very low. If fish, which need oxygen, remain there those depths are brought up, then you would have fish in cages that will have to adapt to very low oxygen," he said.

Juinio said he was not convinced that the onset of the rainy season alone led to the mortalities, saying no significant volume of rainfall in those days.

"I can't visualize that happening. I don't think rains would have done that. More likely we have exceeded the carrying capacity of the lake," he said. "I shudder at climate change as the reason for what's happening."

Just 6,000 cages

BFAR officials said they issued permits to only 34,000 cages— 1,300 cages in the Taal Lake and the rest for cages spotted in open waters.

In Taal, only 6,000 cages are allowed to operate. Over the years, however, the lake became host to up to 34,000 cages.

"By the end of 2011, we should only have 6,000," said Rilo Tenorio, executive director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Calabarzon.

China blasts PH anew on Spratlys claim: Stop irresponsible comments

From page A1

spokesperson Abigail Valte told reporters in Manila yesterday.

"We stand by what we believe in and what is ours," she added.

The comments, posted on the minister's website on Tuesday, were China's most robust response to months of tension in the Philippines' downward what it said was the increasing assertiveness of Chinese ships in the region. It also cited the United States' under in the stability and security of the world's second-largest economy.

Beijing said China had stood by its position in the 11 countries. He said counties big countries and periods by Chinese vessels in waters under Chinese jurisdiction was "completely reasonable."

Diplomatic solution

"President Aquino has also already said that we can propose any reports on these alleged incursions and that we would to pursue claims to the appropriate body," Valte said.

Asked if Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario's statements would affect Mr. Aquino's plan to report the incursions to the United Nations, Valte said, "It will not hold us back as far as we will welcome our stance that we will keep the door open for more diplomatic way possible."

China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan all claim territories in the South China Sea, which carries an important shipping route and is thought to hold untapped oil and gas reserves.

China claims most of the sea, some 1.7 million square kilometers, including the Spratly and Paracel archipelagos.

6 incidents of intrusion

Manila has accused China of intrusions into its territory, citing six instances, including one in March when two Chinese patrol boats tried to ram a Philippine Malaysian oil survey ship 120 kilometers off Palawan province's south-central coast.

One incident this month, in which Chinese vessels joined a buoy and posts in a part of the sea Malaysia, spurred protests in the cities of Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh.

Hong and Quinn were willingness negotiate directly with the Philippines "took an appropriate reconsideration the relevant dispute."

Aircraft carrier

The Chinese blast against the Philippines came amid reports that China could launch its first aircraft carrier this year, a year earlier than US military analysts had expected.

The Hong Kong Commercial Daily yesterday reported that a top Chinese general had confirmed that Beijing was building an aircraft carrier, marking the final acknowledgement of the ship's existence from China's executive authority.

In an exclusive interview, the newspaper quoted Chen Bingde, chief of the General Staff of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), as saying the 300-meter refurbished Soviet cruiser "is being built, but it has not been completed."

He declined to elaborate although there has been wide speculation that the vessel was mostly finished after the ship, China called the Beijing, was reportedly purchased in 1998, it is currently based in the southeast port city of Dalian.

The ship, which an expert on China's military has said would be used for training and as a model for a future indigenously built ship, was originally built by the Soviet Navy Construction was interrupted by the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

End of month launch

The Hong Kong paper quoted anonymous sources as saying the carrier would be launched by the end of June at the earliest.

Qi Jianguo, a retired major the chief of the PLA's general staff, told the newspaper that the carrier would not enter other national territories, in accordance with Beijing's defensive military strategy.

"All of the great nations in the world have aircraft carriers—they are symbols of a great nation," he was quoted as saying.

Despite its growing naval might, China sees it poses no threat to its neighbors and that its long-term strategy is to shift its resources to military spending are in line with overall growth.

Clashes with Tokyo

In addition to China's claims in the South China Sea, Beijing has clashed with Tokyo over the disputed Senkaku Islands, known as the Diaoyu Islands in China, located in the East China Sea.

In April, then Robert Willard, head of the US Pacific Command, said China's Navy has been "more aggressive" in its moves in the Pacific after protests from Washington and other nations in the region.

The PLA—the largest army in the world—is hugely secretive about its defense programs, which have been a key military budget boosted by the nation's economic growth. Reports from Reuters, AFP and Agencia Bombahora in Manila

SPRATLYS ROW Protesters shout slogans during a rally at the Chinese Consulate in Makati City against recent Chinese military incursions in the disputed Spratlys in the South China Sea. INQUIRER PHOTO

WHAT WENT BEFORE

ON JAN. 27, retired Lt. Gen. Benigno Rabusa appeared at a Senate hearing and was asked how it had become a tradition for senior military officers to resolve a particular standoff gift in the way of millions of money.

Rabusa testified at the Senate blue ribbon committee's initiative query into the alleged misappropriation of funds by retired military and police officials Carlos Garcia the last brought from a supreme witness by Sen. Joseph Estrada.

Rabusa served as budget chief of the Office of the Armed Forces' Deputy Chief of Staff for Comptrollership (AFDCOC) from November 1998 until 2002. He was stationed in 2006 and replaced by four independent officials.

Rabusa said that when Angelo Reyes retired as AFP chief of staff in 2001, he was appointed secretary of "not that bad" P50 million.

P5M monthly

He has of that, Reyes allegedly also received at least P5 million each month during his 33 months as AFP chief of staff.

Rabusa said the distributions of huge sums to the military officials and a "tradition" in the AFP. He said the tradition also benefited former AFP Chiefs of Staff Diomedio Villanueva and Gen. Dionisio Santiago.

He added that he himself had participated in many thousands of pesos in cash that were delivered to Maj. Gen. Ernesto Boac and other military officials. Boac, a former Bicutan and Gregorio Gabriel.

Speaking with Antonio and the files and documents he was presenting to evidence covered the conversion of some P1.5 billion in military funds from 1995 to 2004.

He said the documents included fund receipts, cash advances and fund allotments from "many of which were not really authorized."

238,000 plus pages

The photocopied documents and affidavits in 351 big brown folders amount to more than 200,000 pages, according to Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, the Armed Forces' deputy chief of staff for comptrollership.

"The said money are allegations of conversion and misappropriation of AFP funds," Rabusa said.

Actually, the amounts involved in the conversion [of military funds] were more than P1 billion. But I don't have documents to include them in my complaint," he said.

Former AFP Finance officers Bella Tolentino and Amadis dela Cruz, and Romeo Mateo, both retired lieutenant colonels, submitted separate affidavits in support of Rabusa's allegations.

Dela Cruz served as budget officer of Military Operations unit) from 1998 to 2004. Mateo was the unit's budget officer from 1999 to 2007.

According to Rabusa, Pangilinan may have given several over P88 million when he served as executive assistant of the then AFP chief of staff, Sen. Angara Gaudia, and budget officers of the Army.

Rabusa said Boac, now an assistant defense secretary, received more than P100 million when he was budget officer of the defense. At the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Comptrollership).

Tolentino, Gabriel and Mateo received further money amounting to P26.4 million, P16 million and P9 million, respectively, from 1995 to 2002, Rabusa said.

Intricate process

In his affidavit, Rabusa described the intricate process of requesting and acquiring funds from JS, J2 (the AFP intelligence unit), and the Intelligence Service of the AFP (Isafp) to finance sensitive military projects.

He said a rule exists to get money from these AFP units because they were engaged in various undisclosed activities and "special ops" [psychological operations].

"Sometimes when we needed more funds, we also use the allocations for the salary of soldiers assigned to battle," he said.

As he had also found in Senate hearings, Rabusa said he was paid at least P10 million as monthly "stipend" to the Office of the AFP Chief of Staff.

The bulk of the pilfered funds was used for the "jobbers" and "pasalubong" [windfall and non-combat gifts, respectively] for retiring and incoming AFP chiefs of staff.

Dela Cruz and Mateo admitted that they had regularly set aside 11 percent of the contracted funds they disbursed to be used for the "pasalubong" and "jobbers" and "pasalubong" [windfall and non-combat gifts, respectively] for retiring and incoming AFP chiefs of staff.

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According to Dela Cruz, he and Mateo took around 1.5 percent from the fund conversion. And the JS chief, 3 percent.

The rest was distributed to the chief of staff, comptroller, auditor and commanding officer of the AFP finance office.

"[These] payments are very clear violations of both accounting and auditing procedures of the government, because the payments are never supported by credit advice you issued to Colonel Dela Cruz because his clearing documents never reached the Commission on Audit state office," Rabusa said.

Rules on the rescue

Mateo said that because of the existence of the documents that had to be prepared, he and Rabusa decided to seek financial assistance from the trust belonging to the Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines (AMRSP).

He said the team helped him a photocopying machine and 400 reams of bond paper to prepare 32 sets of documentary evidence, each containing 11 sets of voluminous photocopied affidavits and financial documents such as passbooks and checks.

Mateo said the team spent close to P500,000 to put together all the needed paperwork.

"The team also helped us by providing all the necessary documentary evidence," he said.

Rabusa files plunder raps vs 2 generals

From page A1

Included in his 105-page amended complaint-affidavit were Lt. Gen. Gaudencio Pangilinan, former chief of the Northern Luzon Command; retired Maj. Gen. Ernesto Boac; and retired colonels Nicasio Nuñeza, actors Rosana and Gennaro Gabriel.

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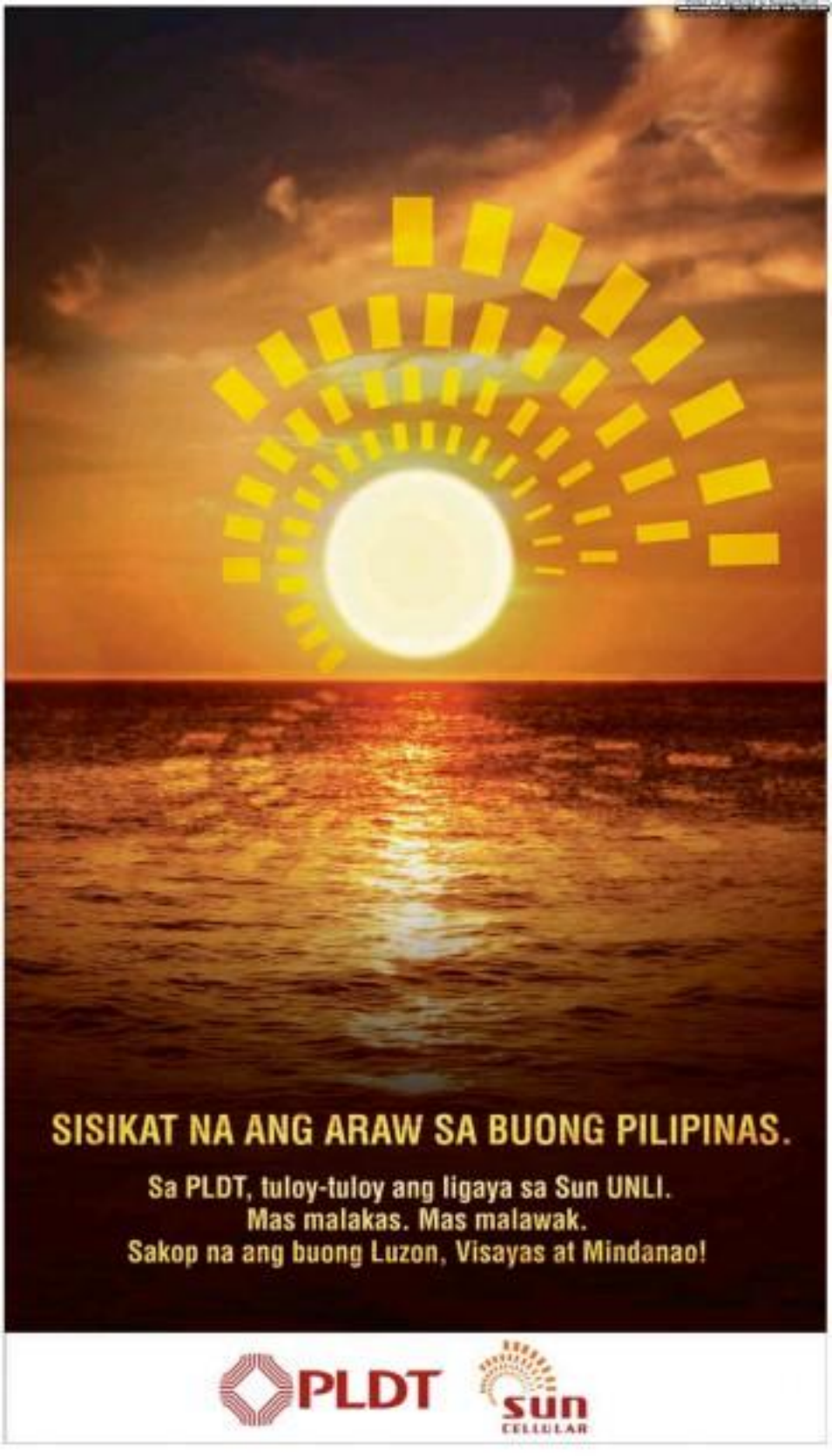
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Mas malakas. Mas malawak.
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Enrile orders coral smuggling suspects arrested

From page A1

members, NBI director for the Luzon group Reinerio Reyes.

"That prosecutor has a lot of explaining to do," Enrile said. "It's very obvious that these people are dribbling the case ... no coordinate delay like this has a cause and I suspect that the cause is power and sentences."

Nowhere to be found

Shinichi Maekawa and Peng—who she were by narrow charges, including Li Yu Ming, Lee Nyu Ming, Ju Feng Li and Ju Ping—was "nowhere to be found" in Zamboanga as of Tuesday.

Enrile asked the Senate committee on the environment to issue an order freezing "all the objects of this crime."

The acting police chief in Zamboanga City, Senior Supt. Edwin delos Santos, and officers sent to get the suspects after they failed to arrest the shooting returned empty-handed. "They left the house in haste," he said.

Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri, the committee chair, grilled Ben Arellano, owner of ABA Trans-

port System, which shipped Peng's apparent contraband. Also in attendance was former President Arellano's cousin in Manila.

With his lawyer coaching him throughout the hearing, Arellano insisted that he was unable for the smuggled black sea corals, endangered turtles and other forms of marine life, which his company had shipped.

Arellano said he began doing business with Olivia Li—either in 2009 or 2010. He said a previous shipment involved "shark's skin, horses and sea cucumbers."

"Mr. Arellano, I'm sorry to say this, but it appears that you are in cahoots (with Li) in this transaction," Zubiri told him.

Amid Zubiri's questioning, Enrile walked into the room and advised the government to just include all suspects in the criminal charges.

"Charge all of them," Enrile said. "No one is exempted. The families is area for them to prove their innocence."

"I'm not anti-Chinese. I'm not

a racist. But if you see the list of all violations of the last hour, you will always see about our names. That's a fact. And it's about time we call a spade a spade."

Self-defense

The government, Enrile said, has the right to "exercise self-defense" against positions "committing a crime against the Filipinos people."

"Nobody planted these stones. God created them and they were discovering it. They're causing injury to the livelihood of many people. They degrade the marine environment of the country," he said.

Zubiri later said that a bold-dispatched order had been issued against the Chinese people, BOC officials and other suspects in the smuggling attempt.

His committee also issued a subpoena to Bureau 56 and Immigration Associate to appear in the next hearing on Monday. The couple used the warehouse where (1) had kept the corals. Initial. With a report from Delia S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

Laughing insects among new PH species

AMAG, "sea sharks" and "laughing" cicadas are among scores of species believed new to science discovered by US and Filipino researchers in eastern and islands of the Philippines, the team said on Wednesday.

The finds showcased the vast biodiversity of the Southeast Asian archipelago that is now under severe threat, said the report from the California Academy of Sciences and Bandamaldonian.

The team found a rich harvest of mantids, sea urchins, eels and barnacles, many of which had not been previously documented by scientists, said Richard Mooi, one of the California marine scientists.

"We found at least 75 new species, perhaps more. A lot more analysis is needed," Mooi told a forum on undersea discoveries.

"Unquestionably we found 20 new species of starfish and sea urchins alone," he added.

Unusual

Fellow marine scientist Jessica John McCosker said the team discovered several small "cryptic" (but might also be a new species.

Among the other unusual discoveries, insect specialist Lemos Lit said her group believed they had found several new species, including a cicada that made a sound like high-pitched laughter.

The expedition had traveled the depths of the waters off Batangas province and Taal Lake, and also took samples of living things from four mountains over the past month.

New spider species

"We found new species of eels, possibly a new species of pipe fish, new species of barnacles, new species of mollusks (mollusks," said Terry Gosliner, dean of the California Academy.

There possible new species of spiders were also found in a search of the mountains, said spider expert Charles Griswold.

Mooi said the findings—the end months of laboratory work to confirm if the finds were all truly new species.

Edgardo Gomez, a professor of the University of the Philippines' Marine Science Institute, said some of the marine finds would have been under threat of extinction.

"Philippine marine biodiversity is under siege," Gomez told the forum, citing damage caused both by pollution, overfishing and climate change. AFP

'If the mountain is destroyed, what will we have left?'

From page A1

lagad, a pangtime or chief in Barangay Tampakan. Some 20,000 villagers in Brooke's Point town, one of Palawan's 23 watershed areas.

Nickel mining

The main cause of worry: A planned nickel mining project, covering over a thousand hectares, which Tagad fears would spell the beginning of the end for Mantalingahan's gifts to its people.

"The mountain may provide money and jobs to some of us, but if the mountain is destroyed, what will we have left? We have nowhere to go," Tagad activist Filipina.

The mining firm, Macroasia Corp., maintains that the project, as required by law, has secured the consent of the indigenous peoples (IPs) in the area, groups already recognized by a government body to be genuine residents of the area.

Still, Tagad and eight other tribesmen faced reporters in Manila yesterday to gather support for his group's campaign against the project.

'Fake' tribesmen

At a press conference organized by the Save Palawan Movement led by Gina Lopez, managing director of the ABS-CBN Foundation, and Aklasan Indigenous Network, the group claimed that Macroasia had tapped up to 30 "fake" tribesmen to convince the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) to approve the project.

The group called on the NCIP to deny the issuance of a certificate of precondition to Macroasia, in a document that would serve as proof that local residents approved of mining activities in their area.

The NCIP is set to meet on June on June 15, 17 to decide whether to issue the certificate, which, in turn, would enable Macroasia to secure a strategic environmental plan clearance from the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD).

"How so-called tribal chieftains showed support for Macroasia despite opposite views from the majority of indigenous people from Brooke's Point," Tagad's group said in a statement.

Macroasia statement

Reached for comment, Macroasia vice president for mining operations Ramon Ignacio said the company satisfied with the group's concerns to the NCIP has he noted that it was the commission itself that "gave us the list of tribal leaders to talk to."

"They (tribal leaders) claim that they are the genuine IPs. They may indeed be IPs, but the question is, who would the NCIP recognize as the ... actual dwellers in the impact area?" Ignacio said in a phone interview.

He maintained that the process has according the free and prior informed consent of the local residents in connection with the project was carried out rigidly to full consideration with the NCIP, he said.

"They validated which IPs as regards the project area and they gave us the list of tribal leaders to talk to," the company official stressed.

Macroasia has lodged a memorandum of agreement with the concerned IPs released by the NCIP famous said.

Consent of IPs

Under the agreement, the IPs gave their consent to the project while the company agreed to extend certain benefits to the community such as a 1-percent royalty out of the gross value of production, and other forms of assistance such as scholarships.

As a token of good faith, Santon said, the company has already started providing scholarships to 122 youths, of which a hundred are from 29 families and 22 are other residents recommended by the local government.

The scholarships have been granted even if the mining project has not yet started, he noted.

Ignacio denied allegations that some 10 tribal leaders had been given as bribe for the company's application at the NCIP.

"The project has not started and we are already done exploring the area so we don't have an activity for which we can carve out a budget as if we called school year, they asked for help we following up the project. We simply provided them assistance," he said.

Not against all mining

At the press conference, Lopez stressed: "I want to make this clear: Save Palawan Movement is not against all mining."

"We're not against mining in a natural forest. We're against mining in key biodiversity areas because this is a treasure for the planet and our country to provide. We're against mining in critical ecosystems where there are coral reefs and mangroves and farmlands," she said.

Mantalingahan, Lopez said, is a 2,000-hectare old-growth forest, meaning it was "not planted by man (but) sprung out because of ecology. It's there because nature put it there. It has amazing biodiversity."

Lopez recalled that a two-year study was commissioned by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the PCSD to assess the economic benefits of mining the area and of keeping it untouched.

Leave mountain alone

"At the end of the two years, the was the conclusion: If you leave Mt. Mantalingahan alone, the value in the country in terms of water, carbon-credits, agriculture and, watershed areas, is worth P84 billion. Even if you mine it conservative, it's worth at least P70 billion," she said.

"Then they counted the revenues that will come from mining. They estimated P15 billion. So the end of the study, in very clear terms, they said 'do not mine in Mt. Mantalingahan.' The value to the country is much more than if you would mine it," Lopez said.

According to its website, Macroasia holds two mineral production sharing agreements (MPSAs) with the government following the enactment of mining laws that the company described as "among the most progressive in the 1970s.

The company described the nickel project in Brooke's Point as one of its "more advanced" ventures.

With a total land area of about 16,116 ha, the project site was actually host to an old mine that produced ore shipments to Japan in the 1970s and is now being reassured for operations "upon full compliance with statutory requirements," the company said.

Republic of the Philippines
City of Lapu-Lapu
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Project Ref. No. 709-11-009
Name of Project: Construction of Security Barrier
Location of the Project: Lapu-Lapu City

INVITATION TO BID

THE CITY OF LAPU-LAPU through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites eligible prospective contractors/manufacturers/dealers to supply the eligibles and to bid for the following projects:

Name of Contract / Supply and delivery of items specified below:
Location: Various City
Brief Description:

[ ] RFQ NO. 11-03-0001 - 20 Security Guards to secure areas stated below for the months of July to September 2011, with the Approved Budget for the Contract of P 1,008,000.00

[ ] (a) @ LC District Hospital	[ ] (b) @ Pajo(Opon)
[ ] (c) @ Public Market	[ ] (d) @ City Cemetery
[ ] (e) @ Slaughterhouse	[ ] (f) @ Pier (Tide Hall @ Bankoy Island)
[ ] (g) @ City Hall Premises	[ ] (h) @ SSS Bldg.
[ ] (i) @ Warehouse & City Hall Perimeter (security)	[ ] (j) @ GSIS Bldg.
[ ] (k) @ GSIS Bldg.	[ ] (l) @ Disaster Impounding Area

[ ] RFQ No. 11-03-0002- 17 Security Guards to secure areas stated below for the months of July-December, 2011, with the Approved Budget for the Contract of P 1,913,976.00

[ ] (a) @ Hospitalcino	[ ] (b) @ Home Love Center
[ ] (c) @ New Terminal	[ ] (d) @ LLC College
[ ] (e) @ Mactan Area Progress	[ ] (f) @ Development Housing Project
[ ] (g) @ Maribago Park	[ ] (h) @ Old Terminal
[ ] (i) @ LLC Hospital	[ ] (j) @ Drug-Age Treatment Plant

Source of Funds: General Fund
Contract Duration: Upon receipt of Purchase Order/Notice of Award with acceptance of delivery
Delivery Period: July 1, 2011 or designated area

Prospective bidders should have completed a contracting similar project within the last five (5) years with an amount of at least 50% of the contracted project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "PASS/FAIL" criteria. Post-qualification of Bids shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to eligibility, Submission and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conferences, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

Procurement Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	June 9, to 20, 2011 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. @ BAC Office
2. Pre-bid Conference	June 15, 2011, 2:00 p.m. @ BAC Office, Lapu-Lapu City
3. Deadline of submission of bids	June 20, 2011, 1:00 p.m. @ BAC Office
4. Opening of Bids	June 20, 2011, 2:00 p.m. @ BAC Office
5. Bid Evaluation	June 20, 2011, 2:00 p.m. @ BAC Office
6. Post-qualification of Bids	June 20, 2011, 3:00 p.m. @ BAC Office
7. Issuance of Notice of Award	June 30, 2011

Bid Documents will be available only on prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P 2,000.00 to the Cashier of the City Treasurer's Office, Lapu-Lapu City.

The Lapu-Lapu City BAC reserves its responsibility/ability for consumption or indemnity for any expenses incurred in the preparation of its bids.

Approved by:

(SGD.) FERDINAND R. FRANCIS
BAC Chairman

(JUN – June 9, 2011)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Occidental Mindoro
Municipality of San Jose

INVITATION TO BID FOR

Description	ABC	Approved Contract Period
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Burying ourselves

THE SO-CALLED Binay formula for burying the re-frigerated remains of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos is a cautionary lesson in, and a sorry example of, the self-perpetuating aspects of our worst political traditions. Presented with an opportunity to exercise leadership on a matter of moral, national and historical importance, Vice President Jejomar Binay opted, merely, to be political.

EDITORIAL His formula—buried with military honors, but not at the Libingan ng mga Bayani—is still under study by President Aquino, but Binay has already preserved the proposal as being fundamentally an essential and necessary compromise. He called the plan "very balanced," with "all sides considered." In other words, a gift of the political art.

A number of people have also described the formula as Solomonic, that is, a difficult but ultimately wise decision. This view, however, misunderstands what Solomon, the Old Testament king who acquired a reputation for wisdom and unerring fairness, actually did in that famous dispute of the two rival mothers. When Solomon ruled that the baby claimed by the two women should be cut in half, he did not mean to stop there. Indeed, if he did, he would be remembered today as despotic and unjust.) The preliminary ruling was meant to identify the real mother, who naturally did not want to see her child hurt. Only then did Solomon actually decide the case, recognizing the claim of the woman who had renounced it in order to save the life of her child.

The problem with the Binay formula, thus, is that it proposes a cut-it-in-half approach—and stops there. (If it comes to pass, it will be remembered as honoring a despot, and deeply unjust.)

It was precisely because the President saw the burial as part of the tangled destinies of the Marcos and Aquino families, and their common fate as part of the country's complicated history, that he asked Binay to handle the issue and recommend a solution. We dare say he did not expect to be given a political formula.

Instead of seeking balance, Binay should have chased contour: Who is Marcos, and what is he in Philippine history? Where are the aspects who can refute the evidence of massive fraud behind his bogus medals and alleged military exploits? Even more to the point, what did Marcos do to the military? He turned it into his own private army; he set back the professionalism of the armed services by at least a generation; he abused the country's soldiers to perpetuate himself in power. For all this and more, the fabled heroes of the Philippines is supposed to give him full honors?

It was precisely because of the issue's national import that Mr. Aquino assigned it to a high official with a national (and independent) mandate. We dare say he did not expect to be told by Binay, in so many words, that the nation of his and his predecessor.

Instead of seeking compromise, Binay should have demanded the fullest accounting: Where did Marcos secure his great and unexplained wealth? How did he reach those disastrous decisions that led to the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant, the 11 eight foreign debt, the hijacking of the coconut industry, and so on ad nauseam? What did Marcos know about the assassination of Ninoy Aquino, and when did he know it? In his two decades in power, Marcos redefined the national interest in his own image. Today, the national interest demands that a true picture of Marcos' misdeeds, not an official fudging for future electoral considerations, be made, and set in stone.

Not least, it was precisely because the President sensed that the Marcos burial is ultimately a moral issue that he sought to have its solution placed outside normal political channels. We dare say he did not expect to see it treated as business as usual.

Instead of seeking "unification" (the same objective of the Marcos family, whose heroic province Binay carried in the last election), the Vice President should have pursued justice. If he did, he wouldn't have said the following: "Every opinion from every person who responded to the survey (that he conducted) was given consideration." To this an aggrieved nation has only one reply: What about the thousands killed, the tens of thousands of human rights victims, the hundreds of thousands dislocated by a predatory economy, the millions who showed up day after day at Edsa? Have they, too, been given due consideration?

To bury Marcos with military honors is a moral, national, historical outrage.

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The front line of democracy

WORLD VIEW

Rodrik Ahlovski

PEOPLE'S [illegible] transition from authoritarian rule—peaceful in Poland in 1989, bloody in Libya today—grapple with decisions that determine their fate for decades. How should the former regime's secret services be treated? Should the former ruling party be banned? How can civilian, democratic control of the army and police be secured? What role should religion play in public affairs? Should the constitution establish a presidential or parliamentary system?

The former communist world made these choices 15 years ago. But very different choices—for better and for worse—were made in Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia, in the Baltic states, across the former Soviet Union, in Central Asia, and in East Germany. The results form a virtual database of experience. Today's Arab reformers are not drawn on our successes—and avoid our mistakes.

We remind Europeans have our misery of intervention. We've learnt what are we supposed to do place it with a system based on modern European democratic norms reform. Building democratic structures requires time, discipline, joint and patience. But it pays off in the end. Poland will celebrate the 15th anniversary of the first free, relatively honest elections this month. Hungary and Czechoslovakia are much the same. The fall of the Shah in Iran had various consequences for that country. Bourgeois were independence in 1991, Iran, since 1989, President Khamenei-Lukashenka has shamelessly embraced communist symbols—and methods—in cling to power. Europe has established human rights.

Today, across North Africa, millions of people are [illegible] a chance to change their future. Each country is looking to change and move forward. In Morocco, the king has announced sensible constitutional reforms, including guarantees for public participation in national decision-making, an independent judiciary, and true regional autonomy. This measured, inclusive reform can be a model for others. And reformers in the Arab world have had tremendous support from Qatar, which has provided an example of strong leadership, particularly in Libya, but also through the news channel Al Jazeera—a real force for change in the region.

Libya is experiencing a deadly struggle between people [illegible] change, and a desperate, greedy regime determined to cling to power after 40 years of close rule. The United Nations Security Council, supported by the Arab League, has authorized the use of all necessary means to protect Libyans from the cruelty of their own leaders. Our NATO allies launched [illegible] operation. Qaddafi's regime [illegible] Libyan Liberation Council—the opposition's [illegible] Qaddafi regime. Governments worldwide have frozen [illegible] assets [illegible] abroad by the regime—money that should be used to help the opposition to build a new society.

Last May I went to Benghazi to assess the intentions and credibility of the Transitional National Council and Libyan opposition. We brought medical supplies for the Benghazi Medical Center, where injured people from Misurata and elsewhere are being treated.

Around the table sat improbable allies: some had been prominent officials in Qaddafi's regime; others had spent many years in prison under the threat of death. They were united in recognizing that their country deserved a new start.

I talked [illegible] with TNC Chairman Mustafa Abdul Jalil, Deputy Chairman Abdul Hafiz Ghoga and TNC Defense Minister Abdel Fatah Younis, himself a former political prisoner. They were grateful for the international community's intervention, but described its unfolding versus the longer loss of life that Gaddafi had inflicted on his own people.

I told them that we considered the TNC to be our new legitimate political interlocutors in Libya and were ready to support them, but that in return we expected the TNC to work towards the best standards of transparent, democratic governance. They had no problem with those they need explain—revolutionary transitions are moments to be seized. Poland would help by offering training for TNC officials.

Following this visit, my message to European leaders is twofold. First, I believe the TNC is the best bet we can realize now for Libya's future. At least, we are cooperating in an effort to bring about real reform in a way that was unthinkable a few months ago. They deserve the world's energetic support.

Second, while Europe has much to offer its North African neighbors in terms of financial support, advice and training, the region needs to find its own path to freedom and success. Let us approach this task in the best spirit of European solidarity. The [illegible] of Europe's former communist countries can make a special contribution in the process of transition across North Africa. Above all, we understand that sustained reform requires sustaining responsibility by mobilizing the energy of one's own people, not relying on well-intentioned but often ill-focused outside help.

Poland is ready to lend the way in its own and in all Europeans.

North Africa's people know what they don't want—and would accept. But they are struggling to identify what they do want, and how to build it. As I saw in Benghazi, there is often chance that Libya's emerging leaders will be good, moderate partners for good evolutionary policies.

Project Syndicate

Radek Sikorski is foreign minister of Poland.

Relevant

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiroz

It's 10 days to Jose Rizal's 150th birthday!

It's customary during Rizal Day and other occasions that have to do with Rizal for speakers and writers to wrack their brains to find some way of relating him to our times. Or to [illegible] his pioneer status to make us fit to be his [illegible].

The reason for this is that it's necessary to relate to issues that interest, it is pertinent. It helps us see if the issues the men just held echoes for ours, they puzzled ours, in quite uncanny ways. Enough to make you wonder how far we've really gone from what Rizal was born.

They there were the friars who were the humiliations of wretched beliefs, which they spread in the name of religion. They were the ones who violently opposed the education of the indios on the ground that they would become too big for their breeches. They were the lady reverend their name for those who were abroad in search of a life indios learned, deeming them to be pernicious pollution of the public mind where they came home.

Though a Catholic, Rizal was also a Mason, and subscribed to the philosophy of humanism and nationalism. Much as Martin Luther railed against the priests and bishops of his time, who also regulated themselves more for rise than for virtue, Rizal railed against the friars of his time, who distinguished themselves more for less than worthy than Christian charity.

Today there are the priests and bishops who are the humiliations of wretched beliefs, which they spread in the name of religion. They are the ones who violently oppose any form of contraception on the ground that God wants people to overpopulate the planet. They particularly severe their scorn for the President who has the temerity to support at least their lot mother for being a little less subservient to the Church, deeming the [illegible] of excommunication if he doesn't mind his steps.

Can Rizal's reservoirs in this respect be so hard to use? How so there are are outspelled to [illegible] questions those who do love see the irrationality of demanding thousand friend but are the necessity of encouraging people to produce more mouths than they can possibly feed, fortunately we don't have to let Mexico to do that thing, for we live in more enlightened times. Or do we?

Then there was corruption of epic proportion in government. The governor generals did not particularly relish the idea of being shipped off to this godforsaken place and spend their senior assuming as much wealth as they could while which in some considerable lasting term. They were competent, from their own reform-minded, but they were few and far between.

Since the governor generals had to be satisfied before they left the colony at the end of their term, they had to [illegible] to their every [illegible], or cohorts, with which leaving them, when with enough to make up for their pains. The only limit to plunder was a scale sufficient to make the overtaxed indios to rebellionaries. Abundant, in essence, for the architect of the rebel was actually consolation, the rule for the most part being for the rulers to make hay while the sun shone.

How believed that given the opportunity, or the lure of possession, the Indios would possess themselves of the Spanish colony in what the Spaniards propagated, which was that the indios were intrinsically inferior, it was in their genes. Rizal advanced that all that was the product of history specifically colonial rule, and with [illegible], there were no limits to what they could do.

Today Filipinos have gained enhanced, quite apart from independence, and have taken over [illegible] and THC Defense Minister Abdel Jalil, himself a former political prisoner. They were grateful for the international community's intervention, but described its unfolding versus the longer loss of life that Gaddafi had inflicted on his own people.

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Today Filipinos have gained enhanced, quite apart from independence, and have taken over

Aquino breaks up his Cabinet

OUTLOOK

Rigoberto Tiglao

Greys between blacks and whites

YOUNG BLOOD

[Last]

'Maliputo,' 'tawilis' and poisoned waters

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

P-Noy should lead move to probe Burma

COMMENTARY

Patrick Pierce

President Aquino's message should also mean the Philippines considers the most severe human rights violations as crimes of concern to all of humanity

Why D-bill in limelight again

LETTERS

THE PHILIPPINE Daily Inquirer is on issue 2 editorial got it all wrong. In the interest of truth, let us straighten the facts first.

The Divorce bill (D-bill) has long been submitted to the House of Representatives—in fact, even before the RH bill registered the nation's attention and made new progress in Congress. Gabriela Women's Party filed a Divorce bill as early as the 13th Congress and refiled the same in the current Congress as early as July 30 (E).

So why the talk now about the Divorce bill? One, the Philippines currently carried a singular distinction for being the only predominantly Catholic country in the world without a divorce law after Malta recently approved (in a referendum) to enact one. Two, the House Committee on the Revision of Laws, which has jurisdiction over the Divorce bill, scheduled the measure for committee discussion last April week.

Secondly, a "tedious introduction of the divorce bill" has been made by Gabriela is surprising and irresponsible.

We welcome the progress the Divorce bill has made in Congress. The bill is now being tackled at the committee level. At times, our lawmakers are seen talking about the merits of divorce, of this bill, which we believe would benefit abused women in this land.

Opening a public debate on divorce should not stop the ongoing discussion on the RH bill. The Divorce bill is an initiative due to injustice and malpractice from the RH bill. The deliberations of one should not in any way cause the delay of the other. Also, the initiative to win support for the Divorce bill should not be viewed tragically as something that would inexorably weed away growing support from the RH bill.

The RH bill should stand on its own merits; as should the Divorce bill. Pitting one against the other—which unfortunately the editorial has done—inflames emotional passions and fans unfounded fears.

Both the RH bill and the Divorce bill seek to address legitimate and urgent concerns of Filipino women.

Those two measures are interrelated but addressed separately, by means of legislation, two most injurious situations of women: lack of access to comprehensive reproductive health care and the lack of legal relief from abusive marriages.

Gabriela remains steadfast in pushing for these measures, pro-poor, pro-health RH bill that will have teachers in its framework and provisions a population control agenda.

To the end of advancing women's issues, both inside and outside of Congress, we will fight for reproductive and genetic laws that will benefit women, especially the marginalized. No political prejudice or malice, even from administration allies (pro-consorters as politically term and appropriate purveyors of the truth), can frustrate our determination to advance women's rights and welfare.

—GABRIELA WOMEN'S PARTY

'Go forth and multiply' still applies today

BY DEC. 31, 2011 (check), Rajshorn Tglan, in effect, said that the biblical passage "Go forth and multiply," which was cited by Alcalde Rep. Amado Espino Jr. to no longer applicable in our times because the world's population is already 7 billion.

Has there is absolutely nothing in the verse, no matter what conclusion of the Bible is used, that says we should "go forth and multiply for only until each time that are already number 7 billion, or eight billion or 10 billion."

More importantly, the passage remains valid to this day because while the world's population has experienced continuous growth since the end of the Bubonic Plague, the Great Famine and the hundred years war, the highest growth rates (above 1.8 percent) were only experienced briefly during the 1950s, 70th and 1970s, with the highest being 2.2 percent in 1963.

In 2009, the world's population growth rate was pegged at merely 1.1 percent. And it is a verifiable fact that annual birth rates have been reduced to 140 million and, at that level, are expected to remain constant since their peak at 171 million in the late 1990s.

According to economists, there will be a steady increase of population for a steady decline in the growth rate. The truth is that there are as many countries with negative population growth rate, meaning, countries where those who die outnumber those who are born.

What countries are these? To name a few, there Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Romania, Estonia, Moldova, Croatia, Germany, Czech Republic, Japan, Poland, Slovakia, Austria, Italy, Slovenia and Greece.

So, are the bible's teachings rendered passé with the passage of time? I don't think so. Maybe in the unbelievers.

—PLACIDUS RAMIREZ, rawcorpa.ramirez@gmail.com

P-Noy buddies under fire: Puno, Torres, Ochoa

From page A1

Asked to comment, Malacañang said the opposition was "scraping the bottom of the barrel" in trying to smear administration officials of corruption.

"These are poor attempts to impute anomalies to an administration that has not been tainted in self against graft," Edwin Lacierda, the President's spokesperson, told the reporters.

"I suggest to them that they focus their attention on something more useful ... for the Filipino people," he said.

Lagman said that while it had taken the people 25 years to sweep our cronyism during the Marcos regime, the same malady was back in the Aquino administration.

"And when these (the anomalies) are also allied, true to the enemy pattern he has chosen himself to be, President Aquino does his best in investigating, recommending and firing, even as the harangues and bravura pointed towards others are hasta se realidez," Lagman said.

He said the revelations would be referred to the House committee on good government.

3Ks

In a statement read by Lanao del Norte Rep. Imelda Dimaporo, the House minority said: "A year ago, we were promised a government run by people (thanks to the hum of instant) established on the basis of impartial, credible and participative justice. Today, we have a government where there is a surfeit of bokaings (party mates), kabarkadas (classmates) and kalamidan (shooting buddies).

"We in the House minority will also not be spared government and the national interest by compromised to accommodate the presidential bokaods (friends) and repay political debts."

Lacierda said Ochoa had explained the circumstances behind the P40-million insurance in White Plains, Quezon City.

Ochoa had said that the house was owned by his brother, retired Army Lt. Gen. Jerry L. Acuzar and wife Tess Cabico-Acuzar, and that the property was bought by the couple on March 20, 2009, through their company, Hedgerow Estate Holdings.

Ochoa said Acuzar had already been investigated by the Department of Justice (DOJ).

He said Pacificom had audited, clearly explained his tax situation to the Insurance Commission on appointments, had "no tax liabilities" and had "already been confirmed by the way."

Lacierda also said Jones had explained numerous times that it was cheaper to transfer the PCSO to the PEC than have the Quezon Institute building repainted after it was declared unfit.

"The opposition is scraping the bottoms of the barrel without realizing that the more they fling mud, the more they are taken against (the administration)," Lacierda said.

Based on evidence

Malacañang has been accused of harassing the President's political enemies by indiscriminately filing tax evasion charges through the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), but not filing the civil contract income tax returns.

The eldest child of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Atty. Ediling Pilay Ilog, Jean Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, was the first to cry foul after he and his wife Angelu were charged with criminal charges in the justice department for allegedly evading payment of taxes worth P73.65 million from 2009 to 2009.

Asked to comment, Pacificom yesterday said: "The BIR and (the Bureau of) Customs file cases based on evidence and not on personality. The allegation that we are singling out cronies of the past administration is far from the truth."

Asunto said "all eyes" would be on Benasi and how he would decide on the case of Torres, who also has the influential Iglesia Ni Cristo among her backers.

"If he is able to rise beyond personal ties and do what is right in the case of Torres, he will be seen as an independent and impartial Cabinet member," the lawmaker said.

On top of the leadership issue is the CPO, Suarez said, the public would be watching how Benasi would handle the proposal late to train here, the competition cases involving Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco), and the controversial merger between Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Digital Telecommunications, which is feared to create a virtual monopoly in the lucrative mobile phone business.

Virginia Torres: Mar's 'first acid test'

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

LET'S SEE what he does. Deputy Minority Leader Danilo Suarez said yesterday of newly named Transportation Secretary-Nominee Mar Roxas.

Suarez noted that as the first press conference on Tuesday Roxas said he would open no one.

The lawmaker said that promise would be tested in the case of Land Transportation Office (LTO) chief Virginia Torres, who is to reappear before Congress this month from an extended leave of absence.

"I believe that Mar's first acid test is the case of Virgie Torres," Suarez told the reporters. "Will he suspend her and file charges against her, as recommended by the (Department of Justice)? Or will she remain an unelectable because she is the President's shooting buddy?"

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'Unsavory ways'

Torres was told by the President to go on leave in April to allow the investigation of a complaint filed against her by the LTO's technology supplier, Stradcom Corp. She is scheduled to return to her post on June 19.

A fact-finding committee of the DOJ had recommended the filing of administrative charges against her for alleged complicity in the failed takeover of Stradcom last Dec. 9.

The panel said Torres should be charged with grave neglect of duty or gross incompetence, or in the alternative, with gross misconduct.

Justice Secretary Leila de Lima has endorsed the committee's recommendation.

Benigno Aquino yesterday said the minority bloc was hoping that Mar Roxas, the newly appointed transportation secretary, would "use his (Pinoy's) talents, (DILG Secretary Torres) resumes her unsavory ways of threatening to jeopardize the nation's entire driver licensing and vehicle registration system."

But Torres said she was "ready to face any investigation at any time."

"All of my actions are documented and ... aboveboard," she said, adding that she would stay on board of the LTO until told to quit by the President.

Former Transportation and Communications Secretary Jose de Jesus, who is also being linked to the exposition of Transportation Secretary Jose de Jesus.

Easy target

According to Davao del Sur Rep. Philip Douglas Cagas, Jesus's "arrogance" in office should not be tolerated, especially because the heads are still fine that deals with the poor.

The minority bloc assailed Jesus for "claiming financial troubles" and denying much-needed assistance, while doing so on billions of pesos in the bank, left issues by the previous administration."

But Jesus expressed no surprise over the criticisms, saying that she was an easy target considering how she and other PCSO officials were discovering the way things were run by the past administration and the persons who had benefited.

"I anticipated that at the new things are being uncovered (at the PCSO), certainly people will be out to defend us. I expected as much," she told the reporters in a phone interview.

Jesus, nevertheless, said she was prepared to answer criticisms over the PCSO's transfer to its current location. She said the move was supported by documents.

Long-time friend

Puno, a gun enthusiast and longtime friend of the President, was included on a list of officials who were purportedly receiving protection money from operators of the illegal numbers game "jueteng."

The list was submitted by retired Archbishop Oscar Cruz during a Senate inquiry into the matter.

Puno was also among the officials recommended by a fact-finding committee led by Bataan Rep. Enrique Garcia for the Aug. 23, 2010, hostage crisis that resulted in the killing of a number of Hong Kong tourists by a dismissed police official, who was also shot dead.

Commenting on the hostage crisis at Rizal Park, Lacierda said Puno was not administratively charged even after the committee's investigation.

"What did he do wrong?" Lacierda said. With reports from Norman Bordadora, Pamela C. Manalo-De, Aurrauney L. Andrade and Ron Domingo

Twitter group had warned young girls about Weiner

THREE MONTHS before US Rep. Anthony D. Weiner sent his now infamous photo from his Twitter account to a 21-year-old Washington State college student named Gennette Gordon, a small group of determined, self-described conservatives were warning young women on Twitter, including Gordon, to be wary of him.

Calling themselves the #TwitterSorority on Twitter, members of the group closely monitored those whom Weiner was following, taking it upon themselves to contact young women they believed to be "schoolgirls," and urging them publicly to stay away from him, according to an analysis of posts on Twitter's public stream.

By early May, members of the group were also speculating that Weiner would be caught in a sex scandal.

One member identified on Twitter as Dan Wolfe said used the handle @WeinerWATCH, in the name Twitter user who discovered the photograph that Weiner took of himself and sent to Gordon.

Wolfe shared the photo with his followers and the conservative blogger Andrew Breitbart, who made it public the next day.

Cyberstalkers

As Democrats and Republicans embrace Twitter and other social media tools as a way to interact with their constituents and woo voters, many have discovered a downside to online interactions: cyberstalkers who crack and circulate their every move.

But even by the standards of modern politics, Wolfe and other members of the #TwitterSorority have unsettled Weiner's account with particular ferocity, and a sharp focus on his interactions with women.

In several instances, the congressman dropped his online contact with women after they were identified by the group, suggesting that Weiner might have been aware of its actions.

Posts were at least two hostile high school students among the 191 people whom Weiner followed. There is no evidence that he engaged in private discussions with them, and he has said that on his knowledge he has not had any online sexual communications with underage women.

Mysterious character

While, whose account was called Post Dunce on Friday, has been an enigmatic, mysterious character in the congressman's saga, refusing to reveal his real name even to the other members of the #Twitter Sorority.

He joined Twitter on Jan. 6 and began posting multiple messages criticizing both Weiner and his wife, Huma Abedin, a top aide to Hillary Rodham Clinton.

By March, Wolfe had more than 1,000 followers and was actively befriending fellow conservatives. Group members joined him in scrutinizing those whom Weiner was following and their Twitter profiles, and they were commenting if the person the congressman followed was a young woman.

On April 14, for example, Wolfe tweeted, "Weiner's new follow is a high school girl LEMKE! Weird!"

'Kind of weird'

Michael Stack, 30, of New Jersey, says who describes himself on his Twitter profile as a "Republican who believes in the principles that made this country great," said he befriended Wolfe on Twitter (they never met in person or spoke on the phone).

"Dunce, Dan told me Weiner was following a bunch of girls," Stack said. "I thought it was kind of weird."

Stack said that Wolfe had told him in a private message that Weiner had been following a porn star who was later identified as Ginger Lee.

"He tweeted about it and then the porn star was gone," Stack said. "He was getting attention," he said, referring to Weiner.

Coming soon

On May 5, Wolfe told Stack that he had a friend who knew Matt Drudge who had said that a scandal involving a member of Congress was coming soon.

The same day that Morgan Broussard, 26, of Texas, said that she had received an e-mail from Weiner with a photo she had asked him to take, while holding up a white sheet of paper that said "xxx."

At 6:26 p.m., Stack, using his Twitter handle, @ryanstack, posted: "Rumor... a 'topless' Congressman caught with underage. There are pix and a cop is right with it. Blogger has them. @RepWeiner is next!"

Prom date

Throughout May, Wolfe and other members connected online to Weiner's conduct.

"I know Congressman Weiner," Reid said. "I wish there was some way I can defend him, but I can't."

Expressions of support from other Democrats, many of whom have long grumbled about Mr. Weiner's cheerleading, go-it-alone style, were likewise conspicuously scant.

Respondents split

A poll released on Tuesday, however, found that about half of New York City voters think Weiner should hang onto his congressional seat.

But most of the 570 respondents to the survey, which had a sampling error of plus or minus 5 percentage points, say they want him to step out of the race to succeed Mayor Michael Bloomberg in 2013.

The Marist Poll found 61 percent said Weiner should remain in Congress, while 33 percent said he should step down, and 6 percent said they weren't sure.

But 56 percent said Weiner should not run for mayor, while 25 percent said he should. Nineteen percent said they were unsure.

Have forgiving

Unlike many in the political world, Weiner's constituents seem to be more forgiving.

Judith Shapiro said Weiner's steadfast service to his constituents outweighed his online flirtations and deceptions.

"Remember, he has human issues," Shapiro said. "He has not done anything because, basically, he's a very ethical man. He's a good man."

Weiner, an outspoken liberal congressman, insisted he had done nothing illegal and said he would fully cooperate with a House inquiry.

"People who draw conclusions about issues that he did so," Weiner said. "I've worked for the people of my district for 12 years and in addition for 20 years and I hope they see fit to use this in the light that it is." Reuters, Wires, New York Times News Service and AP

From page A1

If Weiner sent lewd pictures of himself to strangers from a government-issued computer and not from his personal BlackBerry as he has claimed, then this may constitute unethical behavior.

Still, ethics hardly seems the right discipline for this affair. Privately a majority say, since doing to some people done to Weiner.

'Mental illness'

A longstanding political friend of his 20-year-old Weiner said his wife, Huma Abedin, said on Tuesday that he was trying to come to grips with the congressman's recklessness.

"If you look at the situation — as if public or as if private — it's private," said the friend, who did not want to be identified. "But you go beyond sex, this is mental illness. It's strange."

But in a tense telephone call with Weiner, during which he apologized, Democratic Rep. Bob Turner of Brooklyn scolded the rising star of her political party: "How can you explain that somebody can be so smart but so stupid?"

Even though Weiner seem to be easy being watched on the Internet, he kept up his stream of tweet communications with strangers, people who identified themselves as women.

Less than a month ago, he told a reporter for The New York Times that he knew that his own behavior was bound to be scrutinized.

In fact, conservative bloggers, led by an individual identified as @PrincessSARA, were tracking his Twitter account so carefully that they sent warnings to women who were being followed online by Weiner to be wary of him. (See story on this page.)

Emotional state

Asked about Weiner's emotional state, his spokesperson referred to his comments at the news conference on Monday, when the congressman, weeping, said that he could not explain his behavior, but that he intended to keep his seat in Congress.

Weiner admitted during the tearful news conference that he had sent suggestive photographs and messages to at least six women and had repeatedly lied to cover up his actions.

Democratic colleagues who spoke with Weiner later described him as not sounding like himself. He was distraught and unconvincing in his admission of lies, lawyers doubted aloud.

"He was embarrassed," Rep. Rodolphus Towns of New York recalled. "He is trying to pick up the pieces and move on."

'That's weird'

Nine details of Weiner's online interactions with the women suggested he was the one pushing his conversations into intimate territory.

In an interview on "Good Morning America," one of the women, Meagan Broussard, said it was Weiner who quickly initiated an exchange via instant messaging and sent racy photos to her.

"It wasn't like I was chasing him, at all," she said.

Broussard said she first wrote on Weiner's Facebook page to ask him to follow her on Twitter in April, after being impressed by one of his speeches. "He sent me a friend request the same day," she said. "I just thought, that's weird."

As Weiner traded from revelations of salacious online behavior, Republicans pulled for his resignation, while Democratic leaders distanced themselves from him.

"I don't condone his activity, and I think he should resign," said Republican Rep. Eric Cantor of Virginia, the House majority leader.

Scant support

Rep. Nancy Pelosi of California, the House minority leader, has said in no particularly upset with Weiner, who worked until 1 5 more than before his news conference on Monday to inform her, by phone, about his explicit online communications with women.

And rather than engage in a discussion about resigning, lawmakers told Pelosi that he would keep his seat.

At an appearance in Wyoming on Tuesday, the top Senate Democrat, Harry Reid of Nevada, said he could not overlook Weiner's conduct.

"I know Congressman Weiner," Reid said. "I wish there was some way I can defend him, but I can't."

Expressions of support from other Democrats, many of whom have long grumbled about Mr. Weiner's cheerleading, go-it-alone style, were likewise conspicuously scant.

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INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Caramoan island tours create jobs

By Juan Escandor Jr.
Caramoan, Camarines Sur

ISLETS STREWN off the coasts of this peninsular town are stirring interest for island-hopping tours that continue to spawn local livelihood opportunities.

On the eastern side, tourists can go to Lahos, Matukad, Baghatbag, Sheikat and Minalagpas, while on the northern side are Gotdon, Begetong, Sabtang Lapu and Tabgon.

Their enthusiasm to explore the distinct surroundings of karst topography and massive limestone formations is stoked in part by the different runaway editions of the reality show "Survivor," which were produced on location in Caramoan and featured in television audiences.

Around 50 native boat guides have emerged to serve the tourists.

Knowing islets by heart

One of them, Christopher Alamar, 35, knows by heart the islets during the summer tours. For accompanying and giving information to the tourists, and positioning other shots, he earns P600 a day.

"I am on call any time, even hosting meetings for the tourists or joining them in their trips downtown," Alamar says.

For one week, the municipality and the Department of Tourism last trained the boat guides on how to explain and answer questions raised by the tourists from the time they arrive till they depart at the Oriental Port.

Alamar says raised agencies contact him by cellular phone to inform him about arriving tourists so he could fetch them and bring them to places where they may stay.

Boat operators

New transport operators have also emerged and benefited from the island-hopping tours.

Rita de los Reyes started investing on motorized outrigger boats with an 8-person capacity, including a machinist and boat helper, when the tours peaked in 2008.

RISING Sandy's Suites&Poland in Caramoan, Camarines Sur, is being developed into a resort starting January this year.

BEATTIA Sacdiga shows off the seashells she paddles, a livelihood she started in 2008 when tourists started hiring the beaches and islands of Caramoan.

De los Reyes says owners of local hotels and inns contact and hire them as soon as tourists arrive.

A boat, which can carry six tourists and two crew members, is rented for P1,500 for a tour on the eastern side. A tour on the northern side costs P2,500.

De los Reyes and other boat owners have also received training on first aid and other life-saving techniques from the local paramedical unit (LCE), in partnership with the Philippine National Red Cross.

All island-hopping boats are required to bring life vests, fire extinguishers and first aid kits at any given time.

For each island-hopping trip, the boat owners would net from P600 to P800, while the machinist and boat helper would receive from P500 to P550, De los Reyes says.

Failed association

Pedro B. Salmon, village chief of Iñlul where the island-hopping boats dock, says the LGU had organized the then-lived Caramoan Motorboat Association, which was composed of motorboat owners and workers earning from the tours and regulated the daily distribution of tourists clients among the boat operators.

The association accomplished this by issuing priority numbers to serve as reference as to which boats should be rented first.

Salmon laments, however, that the set-up was ignored after several months of implementation because hotel owners went directly to the boat owners they patronized.

At least 50 motorized outrigger boats operate in the Iñlul Port, while some vessels are at the Hanman and Tabgon docking areas.

Bookings

Jun Gurrey Godofredo del Castillo says the travel agencies who handle the tourists' food, accommodation and island-hopping tour, pay them through the banks. He has established business relations with seven travel agencies in Metro Manila that provide him with regular clients year round.

During the monsoon months (October to December), his owners still receive bookings although the number is negligible compared to the peak months (January to June).

Salazar observes that business is getting vibrant as the past with one giant brewery using the yellow paint for its company name imprinted on the motorboats servicing the island-hopping tour.

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

CA stops transfer of funds to ARMM

FREE HAIRCUT
Residents of Argao, Cebu, get free haircut from uniformed soldiers whose firearms rest nearby, a reminder for the men and boys who are getting the haircut that soldiers are the ones giving it. TONEE GUILLERMO

COTABATO CITY—After freezing alleged ill-gotten assets owned by the Ampatuan clan of Maguindanao, the Court of Appeals has ordered four banks to withhold release of at least P1 billion in public funds intended by the national government for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

In a resolution on June 6, the appeals court ruled to maintain four depository banks of the ARMM to stop encashing checks issued by the regional government, and lawyer Dionisio Almonte, CA second division clerk of court.

ARMM Executive Secretary Sagadh Gunaborlan said the ARMM government was caught "in limbo" by the CA resolution, which stemmed from a case filed by the Anti-Money Laundering Council (Amlac) of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas against the Ampatuans.

The CA "Notice of Order" named Andal Ampatuan Sr., Bai Lidia Ampatuan and Andal Ampatuan Jr. and others as respondents in the Amlac petition.

But the same petition also sought a stop to the transfer of close to P1 billion in government funds in the ARMM government's SEGS (modified disbursement system) account, which are deposited at the Cotabato City branch of the Land Bank of the Philippines.

The court has ordered three state banks to Makati City to withhold ARMM funds—the Allied Banking Corp. branch on Legaspi Street, the Banco de Oro-Buendia on Makati Avenue and the Bank of the Philippines Islands branch on Ayala Avenue.

LBP officials said owners accounted no. 2007900809 belongs to the Office of the Regional Governor of the ARMM and does not bear the identity of any individual nominated Ampatuan.

Meanwhile, said the court's freeze order would practically paralyze the operations of the autonomous region.

The order covers the freezing of the entire ARMM banking account under its MOE funds for salaries, maintenance and operations and project outlay, according to Sinsuat.

"Around P400,000 in salaries of teachers alone would be affected, and they would not be paid their salaries in effect," Sinsuat lamented.

Meanwhile, said the government should be "encouraged with such a move that would affect the entire constituency of the region."

"How could they fail to distinguish the SEGS account of the ARMM from the banking account of the Ampatuans?" MNLF Information director Ali Macabalang said.

He said the order has disrupted education services and coincided with the opening of classes. It also disrupted the delivery of basic social services to the Muslim communities, he said.

"This would certainly deprive everyone in the Muslim communities," Macabalang said.

Earlier, the court froze the assets of the Ampatuans, but the funds held in specific new immediately established a paper trail of banking transactions traceable to the powerful clan, whose key members now stand trial for the Maguindanao massacre. *Nash B. Mendiara Jr., partner Mindanawan*

PNR's 'Bicol Express' to resume running July 1

By Juan Escandor Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

NAGA CITY—More than four years since typhoons "Reming" derailed its commercial run from Manila to Bicol, the Philippine National Railways (PNR) is set to run again on July 1.

The PNR will run a tri-weekly train from Naga City to the Tabaco Station in Manila and another from Manila to Naga City, and Comclutario Tolentino, manager of the South Railways Area 3 operating center from Tagkawayan, Quezon to Legaspi City, Albay.

He said the trip would last less than 14 hours. Diesel-fed engines would pull the coaches.

A late case of P700,000 would be charged for air-con sleeper coaches and at least P500 for the nothing-air coaches.

Tolentino said there would be two air-con sleeper coaches + 26-promo capacity coach with a cloakable bed in one room and a 28-promo capacity coach with two double-deck beds in one room.

He said there will also be two coaching seat coaches with a carrying capacity of 60 and 70 persons.

Another coach will serve as dining car for passengers, he said.

Tolentino said the PNR would conduct two test runs on June 22 and June 28 before the July 1 commercial run.

He said it took the train nine hours and 50 minutes to reach Naga City from Manila during a test run on May 23 that carried top PNR officials, covered journalists and guest passengers.

A return trip on May 23 took nine hours and 35 minutes, said Tolentino.

Tolentino said the PNR would expand its Bicol commercial run as soon as 10 motorized train cars and 40 trailer cars designed for the Japanese government arrive in July.

He described the motorized train cars as akin to buses with one coach attached to an engine and with accommodations for passengers. It pulls several coaches as passenger trailer cars.

The current PNR train has a separate coach in front of the engine which maximizes more fuel than motorized train cars that are similar to buses in terms of fuel efficiency.

The arrival of the train cars from Japan would allow the PNR to service short distance routes, said Tolentino.

Death toll in Central Mindanao floods rises to 7

COTABATO CITY—The death toll in flash swamping Central Mindanao has risen to seven as two more fatalities were reported on Tuesday.

Disaster officials said Noel Bino, 32, a millionaire from Carmen, North Cotabato, was swept by floodwaters while he was crossing the Mulbering River in Carmen, North Cotabato, about 5 p.m. on Tuesday. His body was found three hours later some 5 kilometers from where he was last seen.

The second fatality, Paulino Gesga, 57, farmer, was crossing the Tamuel River in Magpet, North Cotabato, when floodwaters from the slopes of the town's highest peak, Mt. Apo, swept their area. His body was found in a tributary of the Tamuel River two villages away from where he lived.

On Monday, five people drowned in the flooded river in Magpet, Makilala and North Cotabato after days of torrential rains. At least two men, both farmers, have been declared missing.

Town health officials in Magpet, Makilala and North Cotabato confirmed a spike in cases of acute respiratory infections (ARI) and acute watery diarrhea (AWD) in the aftermath of the floods. The ARI and AWD patients were mostly children under five years old.

Irene Santos, regional director of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in Soccsksargen, said the agency has provided relief assistance to the victims.

Soccsksargen is composed of South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani and General Santos City.

Jamil Lagmi, Maguindanao provincial agriculture officer, said the damages to crops and work animals may increase when all the reports reach his office.

Thirteen public elementary and high schools in Mountain and Pagalungan failed to open classes on Monday until yesterday due to floods. *Edwin Fernandez and Carlo Aguirre, Inquirer Mindanao*

Schistosomiasis grips villages in Leyte town

By Jerry B. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—Ninety-nine persons from Palo, Leyte, have fallen ill due to schistosomiasis, a parasitic disease that is spread by contact with contaminated water.

Lilia Navarra, laboratory technician of the Schistosomiasis Research and Training Center based in Palo, said authorities examined the stool and blood samples of 146 persons and found that 99 of them had schistosomiasis.

The patients were from the 10 barangays of Palo, about 12 km from the capital city of Tacloban, which was one of the areas in Leyte that were hit by floods on March 16 and 17.

The floods that hit Palo last March was identified as the cause of the spread of the infection.

The number of patients may rise since several people from different barangays in Palo had visited the center to have their blood and stool samples examined for possible infection, said Navarra.

On Wednesday, 23 persons went to the center for tests.

One of them was a 22-year-old woman, who asked not to be identified.

She said she had been suffering from fever and body malaise in the past few days. She decided to go to the center after several other neighbors tested positive of schistosomiasis.

"I just hope that it (my test result) will be negative," she said.

According to Navarra, the patients may have waded in flood waters which were populated with snails, the intermediate host of cercaria, the parasitic larvae that causes the disease.

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

The Provincial Government of Southern Leyte, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites interested, registered and duly accredited by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to bid on the following contract to be undertaken by administration, open to domestic bidders, and with funds appropriated in the Provincial Budget, as per the following details:

Name of Contract	Construction of Facilities
Location	Brgy. Tuburan, Sogod, Southern Leyte
Bids Documents	As stated
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	P10,000,000.00
Source of Funds	Provincial Share, Special Education Fund (SEF)
Contract Duration	180 CD

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB license appropriate to the contract being considered, a duly notarized Omnibus Sworn Statement (OSS), and must submit a valid Mayor's/Business Permit issued by the city or municipality where their principal office is located.

All participating bidders to Eligibility Screening, Pre-Bid Conference, Opening of Bids, Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, and Declaration and Award of Contract shall be conducted at the Provincial Government of Southern Leyte, Provincial Capitol Compound, Maasin City.

The schedule of BAC activities are as follows:

	BAC Activities	Schedule
1.	Issuance of Bid Documents	June 1 - 15, 2011
2.	Pre-Bid Conference	June 7, 2011
3.	Deadline for Submission of Bids	June 15, 2011
4.	Opening of Bids	June 15, 2011 at the hour
5.	Post-Qualification	June 15 - 17, 2011
6.	Bid Evaluation	June 17, 2011
7.	Declaration of Award	June 17, 2011

It is required that all Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders from the Bureau of Treasury, Provincial Capitol Compound, Maasin City, Southern Leyte upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of PHP10,000.00 (PHP10,000.00 - Construction).

It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS), the website of the Bureau of Treasury, and the website of the Provincial Government of Southern Leyte, provided that bidders shall pay the corresponding fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

Prospective Bidders are given the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to waive defects in any bid, and to consider readily obvious clerical, typographical, and arithmetical errors in computation, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

"No NPP, NPC-IA, Secret Ally executive or responsible employee or consultant of National Coalition for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids."

For further information, please refer to:

Chairman's Office
Bids and Awards Committee
Tel. Nos. (53) 570-8444
Fax No. (53) 570-8444
Email address: gov.leyte@yahoo.com

(Sgd.) ATTY. ROLAND N. DELA CRUZ
Vice Governor/Chairman
BAC Chairman

(PO) - June 09, 2011

BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE
Revenue Region No. 15
Bacolod City

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Pursuant to Revenue Memorandum Order (RMO) No. 39-2010 dated September 15, 2010 and Revenue Memorandum Circular (RMC) No. 10-2011 dated February 2, 2011, the Revenue Region No. 15 Bacolod City and Revenue District Office No. 31 Bacolod City Eastern, Revenue District Office No. 32 Bacolod City Western, Revenue District Office No. 33 Bacolod City Northern and Revenue District Office No. 34 Bacolod City Southern hereby invites all interested and qualified contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following:

Lot 1	Repair, Renovation and Conditioning of Revenue District Office No. 31 Bacolod City Eastern, Revenue District Office No. 32 Bacolod City Western, Revenue District Office No. 33 Bacolod City Northern and Revenue District Office No. 34 Bacolod City Southern Buildings	ABC - P 1,000,000.00
Lot 2	Repair, Renovation and Conditioning of Revenue District Office No. 31 Bacolod City Eastern, Revenue District Office No. 32 Bacolod City Western, Revenue District Office No. 33 Bacolod City Northern and Revenue District Office No. 34 Bacolod City Southern Buildings	ABC - P 1,000,000.00
Lot 3	Repair, Renovation and Conditioning of Revenue District Office No. 31 Bacolod City Eastern, Revenue District Office No. 32 Bacolod City Western, Revenue District Office No. 33 Bacolod City Northern and Revenue District Office No. 34 Bacolod City Southern Buildings	ABC - P 1,000,000.00
Lot 4	Repair, Renovation and Conditioning of Revenue District Office No. 31 Bacolod City Eastern, Revenue District Office No. 32 Bacolod City Western, Revenue District Office No. 33 Bacolod City Northern and Revenue District Office No. 34 Bacolod City Southern Buildings	ABC - P 1,000,000.00
Lot 5	Repair, Renovation and Conditioning of Revenue District Office No. 31 Bacolod City Eastern, Revenue District Office No. 32 Bacolod City Western, Revenue District Office No. 33 Bacolod City Northern and Revenue District Office No. 34 Bacolod City Southern Buildings	ABC - P 1,000,000.00
Lot 6	Repair, Renovation and Conditioning of Revenue District Office No. 31 Bacolod City Eastern, Revenue District Office No. 32 Bacolod City Western, Revenue District Office No. 33 Bacolod City Northern and Revenue District Office No. 34 Bacolod City Southern Buildings	ABC - P 1,000,000.00
Lot 7	Repair, Renovation and Conditioning of Revenue District Office No. 31 Bacolod City Eastern, Revenue District Office No. 32 Bacolod City Western, Revenue District Office No. 33 Bacolod City Northern and Revenue District Office No. 34 Bacolod City Southern Buildings	ABC - P 1,000,000.00
Lot 8	Repair, Renovation and Conditioning of Revenue District Office No. 31 Bacolod City Eastern, Revenue District Office No. 32 Bacolod City Western, Revenue District Office No. 33 Bacolod City Northern and Revenue District Office No. 34 Bacolod City Southern Buildings	ABC - P 1,000,000.00
Lot 9	Repair, Renovation and Conditioning of Revenue District Office No. 31 Bacolod City Eastern, Revenue District Office No. 32 Bacolod City Western, Revenue District Office No. 33 Bacolod City Northern and Revenue District Office No. 34 Bacolod City Southern Buildings	ABC - P 1,000,000.00
Lot 10	Repair, Renovation and Conditioning of Revenue District Office No. 31 Bacolod City Eastern, Revenue District Office No. 32 Bacolod City Western, Revenue District Office No. 33 Bacolod City Northern and Revenue District Office No. 34 Bacolod City Southern Buildings	ABC - P 1,000,000.00

Bidders should have completed, within a period of five (5) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an equipment is stated in the Bidding Documents, particularly Section II or Invitation to Bidders.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criterion as specified in the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least seventy five percent (75%) interest or ownership of the Filipino citizens.

The schedule of BAC activities are as follows:

	BAC Activities	Schedule
1.	Pre-qualification of contractors (for the purpose of determining eligibility for bidding)	June 8-15, 2011
2.	Issuance of Bidding Documents	June 8-15, 2011
3.	Pre-Bid Conference	June 15, 2011
4.	Deadline for Receipt of Eligibility Check	June 15, 2011
5.	Opening of Bids	June 15, 2011
6.	Post-Qualification	June 15, 2011
7.	Bid Evaluation	June 15, 2011
8.	Declaration of Award	June 15, 2011

It is required that all Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders from the Bureau of Internal Revenue, Revenue Region No. 15, Revenue District Office No. 31 Bacolod City Eastern, Revenue District Office No. 32 Bacolod City Western, Revenue District Office No. 33 Bacolod City Northern and Revenue District Office No. 34 Bacolod City Southern upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of PHP10,000.00 (PHP10,000.00 - Construction).

It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS), the website of the Bureau of Treasury, and the website of the Revenue Region No. 15 Bacolod City, provided that bidders shall pay the corresponding fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

Pre-Bid Conference: A pre-bid conference will be held and participated by Bidding Committee, Technical Working Group and Bidders on June 15, 2011 at Revenue District Office Building, Bacolod City, Negros Occ.

Bids must be received by the Bids and Awards Committee on or before June 15, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in Section 3, Instruction to Bidders, Clause 18.

Bid opening shall be on June 15, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. at Revenue District Office Building, Bacolod City, Negros Occ. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders or their duly authorized representatives who choose to attend. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The BIR (RR) No. 15 reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to waive defects in any bid, to consider readily obvious clerical, typographical, and arithmetical errors in computation, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

"No BIR, RR-15, Secret Ally executive or responsible employee or consultant of National Coalition for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids."

For further information, please refer to:

Chairman's Office
Bids and Awards Committee
Tel. Nos. (34) 434-1000
Fax No. (34) 434-1000
Email address: bir.rr15@yahoo.com

(Sgd.) ATTY. ROLAND N. DELA CRUZ
Vice Regional Director
BAC Chairman

(PO) - June 09, 2011

Standoff keeps Nokor vessel in Ilocos town

WORKERS dismantle the North Korean vessel MV Hare Tung II on the shores of Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte.

By Cristina Arnaldez
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LAOAG CITY—The standoff over the removal of a North Korean vessel from the shores of Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte, has reached the causes under the coastal damage bonds by the province's tourism sector who now have taken the back seat.

The one side is the vessel owner, Seoung Marine Co., which has been trying to remove the MV Nort Tung II. On the other is Mayor Mariden Sales, who sought court help to stop Seoung from removing the vessel for fear that the town's claim for damages will vanish with the vessel.

The regional trial court in Bangui town granted Sales' petition for a 20-day temporary restraining order (TRO) on May 23. A hearing is set on June 9.

Ilocos Norte Gov. Imee Marcos was has repeatedly called on Sales to allow the owner to remove the vessel saying the scrap metal that had been salvaged.

Marcos said the threat of new oil seepage continues to hang over Pagudpud's waters as long as the vessel is there.

On Monday the provincial board recommended the 60-day preventive suspension of Sales, "effective immediately," for delaying calls for the removal of the vessel.

Sales said the authority to remove the vessel does not lie with the mayor.

Capt. George Uy-ubla, district commander of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) in northern Luzon, said the authority lies with the PCG.

Uy-ubla said the PCG would explain in the court the need to lift the TRO so the owner can continue with the salvaging.

"The removal of the wreck is urgent... to eliminate the threat it poses to the public and the environment," he said.

"While salvaging is urgent, the disposal of the materials [that will be salvaged] is not," he added.

The two-month period to salvage the vessel ended on May 16. Since last year, two salvors—the late Ilar and Sen. Gin Corp.—have come and gone.

Uy-ubla said the vessel owner should first another salvor because the second salvor, Sun Cen, had caused two cases of oil leak in March and earlier this month. He said PCG is studying what charges to file against Sun Cen.

At least 50 percent of the toxic scrap metal had been removed. He said experts of theft of scrap metal from the vessel fears become constant. The Bureau of Customs, he said, is in charge of safeguarding the scrap metal.

Mayor Sales said the salvaged materials are the town's outstanding guarantee that its claims for damages will be paid.

"If the vessel is completely taken out, we won't have anything to hold against the vessel owner," she said. Binasi owners are likely to file separate claims for damages.

The vessel has been sitting off the shores of Barangay Balaoi for more than a year since it was captured in January last year when it developed engine trouble on its way to China.

It was carrying magnetite ore, or black sand, extracted from Cagayan.

'Model' Quezon citizen wanted for yearly award

LUCENA CITY—The annual search is on for model sons and daughters of Quezon province to be given the "Quezon Modelyo ng Kasangkatan" (QMK) also known as the "Life Achievement Award" and "Modelyo ng Kasangkatan" (MK) or the "Special Achievement Award"—that are given to Quezonians with "exceptional and meritorious achievements."

Last year, Gov. David Suarez cancelled the annual search to make it more exhaustive. The governor appoints members of awards committee.

Nomination forms are available at the QMK secretariat at the provincial tourism office or can be downloaded at www.quezon.gov.ph. The deadline for submission of nominations ends on June 30. —Bella T. Mueller, U.P., Inquirer Southern Luzon

Radio station goes off air to protest assault

By Melvin Gascon
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—A government-run radio station in Kalinga went off air on Wednesday to protest the assault by Gov. Jerrel Rues on one of its station managers.

Jovencio Tabangonay, station manager of dxKR Radyo ng Bayan in Tabuk City, said the station went off air on Wednesday at "a silent countdown" of the latest attempt by provincial officials to stifle press freedom and clamp on the Kalinga people of their right to information.

The shutdown came a day after the governor assaulted Tabangonay while he was hosting his noontime program, "Agenda Para Sa...".

"Besides, we no longer have any microphone to use because [Rues] broke them," Tabangonay said.

He said Rues, accompanied by five security aides, arrived at the station in Barangay Bulanao Norte and barged into the announcer's booth just noon on Tuesday.

"He entered the booth and shouted, 'What are you doing? Is this finish?' Then grabbed the microphone and slammed it on top of the table. Then he took a second microphone and hit me," Tabangonay said.

He said he suffered cuts in the lips and a bruise in the left cheek.

As the governor was leaving the station, Tabangonay said the official threatened him and said, "Continue talking and I will kill you."

Rues confirmed that he confronted Tabangonay but denied threatening him.

"I just tried to grab the microphone and take it off from its stand. The microphone might have hit him in the process," Rues said by phone on Tuesday.

"I only wanted him to stop talking because while I was there, he was like calling on other members of his tribe to come to his rescue," Rues said by phone on Tuesday.

In a statement, Rues urged media groups to investigate the case. "Media will be given a free hand to conduct its own investigation," he said.

Rues's assault on Tabangonay was caught on video by a computer camera that was accessing the radio broadcast online. The footage showed the commotion could have was pacified by policemen.

Tabangonay said Rues may have been riled by his comments on the shares of Barangay Balaoi for more than a year since it was captured in January last year when it developed engine trouble on its way to China.

It was carrying magnetite ore, or black sand, extracted from Cagayan.

Davao City lawyers condemn gun attack on ex-IBP official

DAVAO CITY—Members of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) in Davao condemned Friday night's shooting and wounding of a lawyer here.

Lawyer Jonathan Torreon, incoming president of IBP-Davao, said the attack on Cirilo Bañaga was apparently related to the cases that he handles.

"We are just protecting the interests of our clients. If you are angry with us, we can discuss it inside the courtroom," Torreon said Monday.

Torreon said it was normal for lawyers to earn the ire of people who are hurt by the cases they are handling, but this did not justify violence against lawyers.

"Please do not go to the extent of killing us lawyers. I do hope that you understand that lawyers are only defending the interest of their clients and this should not be the reason to kill lawyers," Torreon said.

Supt. Jose Caramba, spokesman of the Police Regional Command, said the investigation still revolves around reports that the lawyer's getaway vehicle was a taxicab.

Bañaga, who was the immediate past vice president of IBP-Davao, was shot by an unidentified man inside his residence in Bel-Air Subdivision in Juna here Friday. The lawyer suffered a single gunshot wound in the shoulder.

The gunman shot Bañaga as he went to fetch his eight-year old son upon arriving home. Torreon said had Bañaga not bent to fetch his son, he would have been fatally shot.

Bañaga has been declared out of danger. Torreon said the victim expressed surprise at the attack because "he does not have enemies."

The IBP-Davao, in a separate statement, condemned the attack. "We call on authorities to speedily and thoroughly investigate so that those responsible may be brought immediately to justice," said the statement signed by Jaypee Gholotan, public relations officer of IBP-Davao.

—Jeffrey M. Tupas, Inquirer Mindanao

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SPORTS

Ailing Dirk does an MJ, helps Mavs knot series

REJOICE Roger, deuphew nights and the Miami defense fall to stop Dallas star Dirk Nowitzki. AP

DALLAS—Coughing and wheezing, seemed that Jason Terry dropping the eight before, Dirk Nowitzki somehow summoned energy for a late surge that led the Dallas Mavericks to an 86-83 win over the Miami Heat on Tuesday, squaring the NBA finals series at 2-2.

The German giant fought through a virus infection and everything else that ailed him and his team to power a 23-9 run over the final 10:31, lifting the Mavericks to a memorable victory.

He scored 10 of his 21 points—including a driving eight-hundred layup that spun to off the backboard with 16.4 seconds left to put Dallas ahead for keeps—and grabbed five of his 11 rebounds in the final period as Dallas pulled off its second straight clutch performance.

"Just battle it out," Nowitzki said, calling throughout his postgame interview with his warm-up jacket zipped all the way up. "This is the finals. You have to go out there and compete and try your best for your team. So that's what I did."

The Mavs avoided going down 3-1, a deficit no team has ever overcome in the finals, and guaranteed the series will return to Miami.

Game 5 is Thursday in Dallas, and Nowitzki vowed to be ready.

"There's no long term," Nowitzki said. "I'll be all right on Thursday. Hopefully I'll get some sleep tonight, take some meds and be ready to go on Thursday."

Nowitzki wasn't as dominant as Michael Jordan when he scored 38 points despite a bout in Game 5 of the 1997 finals—but it was that kind of performance. If the Mavericks wind up winning their first championship, this performance will go down in NBA lore, topping his effort in Game 2, when he bounced back from a sore finger swollen to score the final nine points in Dallas' 22-5 rally.

By comparison, consider how much a healthy LeBron James played Tuesday.

The Miami behemoth scored only eight points, ending a double-figure scoring streak of 433 consecutive games, regular season and postseason. It was the first time in 99 playoff games that he scored fewer points.

He made only 3 of 11 shots—a tip-in, a 15-foot jumper and a breakaway dunk. Not only did he not score in the fourth quarter, he took only one shot while playing all 12 minutes.

"I've got to do a better job of being more aggressive offensively," said James, who nonetheless contributed nine rebounds and seven assists.

Dwyane Wade led Miami with 32 points, but missed a few threes with 30.1 seconds left and fumbled an inbounds pass with 6.7 seconds left. He knocked the ball back to Mike Miller for a potential winning 3-pointer, but the hurried shot wasn't even close to hitting the rim.

Dallas players savored the moment, except for Nowitzki, who walked off with head bowed, ready for a hot shower and a warm bed.

The illness hit Monday. After struggling to get any rest, he showed up for shootaround but hardly did anything.

His condition was kept a secret, and he helped keep it that way by hitting his first three shots. Then he missed 10 of 11 and it was obvious something was wrong. The biggest giveaway: he missed a free throw for the first time since Game 4 of the conference finals.

Nowitzki received help from Chris Kaman and Peja Stojakovic as much as he could. During timeouts, he stayed in his chair as long as possible, trying to conserve every ounce of energy. AP

LeBron shrugs off anemic performance

DALLAS—Miami Heat's LeBron James maintains his confidence has not dropped an iota as his scoring totals in the NBA Finals.

James, who was fairly abrupt with reporters when asked about his scoring slump after a 17-point bust in Sunday's Game Three, managed only eight in Miami's 86-83 loss to Dallas in Game Four on Tuesday as the Mavs tied the best-of-seven series at 2-2.

This time, however, the two-time MVP and former scoring champion was more than willing to allow his game, saying he needed to be more aggressive.

"I put the ball in the post a few times, and I scored double team," he told reporters. "I tried to kick it out to guys and they're made shots for us, at the same time, I can't let that stop my aggression when they bring two on the ball."

James, averaging 17 points in the series while taking a backseat to Dwyane Wade on offense, hit just three-of-11 shots against the Mavericks on Tuesday.

"If I had had eight points and we won the game, I could be satisfied," he said. "The fact I could have did more offensively to help our team, that's the anger part about it. I'll come back in Game Five and do things that needs to be done to help our team win." Reuters

POC backs PSC on axed karate bets

By Jane Navarro

THE PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee is supporting the Philippine Sports Commission's decision to remove brownbelter Marcelo Delvillers and four other karatedo athletes from the national pool for skipping the recent Philippine National Games.

POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. said he's standing by the PSC's decision to sack Delvillers, Sharif Afif, Jose Paul Morales, Raymund Mojico and Ernesto Mamaki.

The five will be stripped from the PSC payroll starting this month and will vacate their quarters at the Philsports Complex.

"I totally agree with the PSC's decision to discontinue them and replace them with those who didn't participate in the PNG," said Cojuangco during yesterday's POC general assembly. "We must impose disciplinary action on these athletes."

Delvillers, an Asian Games silver medalist and back-to-back Southeast Asian Games champion, and the four other karatedo skipped competition in the PNG held in the island City two weeks ago.

The existing pool was earlier dissolved to give new Philippine Karatedo Federation president Jimmy Vaquilar a free hand to form a new national pool.

Meanwhile, POC Commissioner Jolly Gomez announced before the GA that preparations for the 2011 PNG are set to begin next month with Naga City, Bacolod and Cebu City bidding to host the event.

Forest Hills tops WGAP 2nd leg

FOREST HILLS ruled two of three divisions as it boosted its campaign in the second leg of the Women's Golf Association of the Philippines (WGAP) circuit at the Forest Hills Golf and Country Club recently.

Mi Hee Brodt Hills fashioned an 80 points tally for the Modified Stableford scores while Diane Alawasa, Molly Pegoda and Nelida Bagsol each scored 36 as Forest Hills posted a 1,469 for a 123-point romp over Tagaytay Highlands, which had a 1,05, in Class A.

The hosts also dominated their rivals in Class C, spreading a 369 for an 18-point win over Mahogany (1,317) while Manila Southwoods edged Canlubang, 1,317-1,316, for the Class B plum.

The Highlanders drew 36 points from Ms.

FOREST, A20

Maintenance medication to cure PH basketball?

BARE EYE

Alvarado Trinidad

HE WISH not for it to be an apologetic bow former PBA commissioner Sonny Barrios but had its chance but captains and provide a more sanctity tag for the Smart Gilas national squad into adversary in the Fiba Asia Championship Cup.

Smart Gilas was described in this column as an overperforming, underachieving national squad.

No, Barrios said, it's not a tough, underachieving tenure.

The team did not meet its assigned goal and finished out of the medal.

They did a creditable performance, Barrios countered.

* * *

Of course, Barrios, now working as executive director of the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas, need not be reminded that coach Rajko Toroman had himself expressed disappointment over the national team.

Hmm, Toroman read the team's situation outside shooting in a decisive semifinal match.

But what visibly took Toroman's goat was the poor, spiritless stand by the team in the battle for the bronze against the Qatari team.

* * *

Mr. had hoped Barrios would be able to see the failed national team's game as diagnosis of its ills and weaknesses.

"We were not forget that the Championship Cup was a very tough tournament," he explained. "Other squads were allowed to field two foreign reinforcements each."

The 26th, added Barrios, is first preparations for the London Olympic qualifying tournament are not yet over.

There will be succeeding stints for Smart Gilas, like the Southeast Asia Basketball Association (Seaba) championship next month, to be followed by more foreign trips to Portugal, Turkey, Taipei for the Jones Cup, and three pocket tournaments in China.

* * *

Ironically, there's now the threat, hopefully distant, of Smart Gilas members being lured to join this year's PBA Rookie Draft.

But what stands out is the urgent need for a cure to all the glaring basketball ills besetting.

True enough, Barrios linked off a series of moves, like meeting with regional heads during the SBP congress next week, "to explore areas of interest in nationwide grassroots program."

* * *

Unfortunately, it could not be determined if they would also do something to provide cures and correct improper basketball basics and practices.

You see, you need not go far and attend any league road classic to see how much Philippine basketball has deteriorated.

One trip to the village auditorium where amateur leagues are held to clamor for Barbs coffee before believing to current flawed basics, would show how basketball have, utterly populist as it is, has rapidly gone to the dogs.

In fact, there's a credible non-profit group offering to provide cures to these basketball ills.

However, the ruling SBP with the cue explaining, appears convinced they could swing it and reach the London Olympics riding on luck and low-caliber maintenance medication.

ATHLETES' PHONES Samsung Electronics executive Cristina Jr (2nd) phones to student-athletes from De La Salle University who have maintained high grades for at least five semesters, (from rear) De La Salle-College of St. Benilde Vice President for Finance/Treasurer Dr. Christine Lao (left), Jr. Chief Executive Management of Financial Institutions student, gets his unit from (from left) DLSU Dean of Student Affairs Prof. Arlo Rex, Br. Bernard S. Oca, PSC Vice Chancellor for Lasallian Mission and Alumni Relations, and Samsung PR manager Odette Valerio.

SPORTSWATCH

TRS kids sock domination

THE YOUNG, talented protégés of Suarez Racing School pledge into another challenge as they compete in the third leg of the 2011 National Karting Super Series this Sunday at the Clearwater Circuit Track.

Current champions of the future, twenty-five champions Raymond Cuddia will be joined by fellow TRS Classmate and Pepsi Jackers driver Cadet SE class with the support of Cadrex, Bridgestone, BMF Cebu Cars, Subaru Discovery Subic, Speedtek, Bike Mercant Digital.

Cuddia, Classmate and Tamaon currently hold the top three spots in the race for the SE Cadet crown while Jackie eyes a better finish after debuting with a fifth place finish in the last leg.

Drag racing finals at Clark

THE CEBU BYTE fastest drivers face the final verdict of their title campaigns in the championship leg of the Petron Northern Series 2011 National Drag Racing Championship this Saturday, June 11, at the Clark International Speedway.

All automotive top guns Paul Santos and Edison Cayco gun for crucial wins to swell the crowns in separate divisions of the event co-sponsored by Petron, supported by Yokohama Philippines, Racing Boys Wheels Inc. + 168, Autocream and sanctioned by the Automobile Association Philippines.

Santos seeks his third title in the Dash 4 division against teammate Sachie Edwin Cayco and Edwin Pepot of Mandaue.

Handball's Lopez is CDM for London Olympics

By Mara Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee yesterday named former boxing chief and now handball secretary general Manny Lopez as chef de mission for the London Olympics next year.

The lead Olympic body also appointed weather Julian Camacho and tennis' Ramon Magat as deputy CDM of Men's Chef De, who was earlier named as CDM with POC commissioner Cito Loyzaga, for the Indonesia Southeast Asian Games in November.

Loyzaga eventually gave up his CDM post after he was also named as committee POC executive director.

The appointments were made during the general assembly presided by POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. and chairman Monico Puentevella.

"I'm honored to be named chief of mission and thankful to our president Cojuangco and chairman Puentevella," said Lopez. "I will do everything within my capacity to make the dream of winning the elusive first Olympic gold a reality."

Lopez said he would immediately coordinate with the London organizing committee and meet with heads of the national sports association that will compete in qualifiers for the Olympics.

Camacho and Magat have a more pressing assignment as the Indonesia SEA Games is only almost five months away and introduced sidelined for an absence.

"They said we are committing but to [illegible] but we're aware of the SEA Games [illegible] we maybe everybody is pressed for time," said Magat, the secretary general of the Philippine Tennis Association.

Magat will take care of the events that will be held in Palembang, the capital city of South Sumatra. Tennis, where the Philippines won two golds, two silvers and two bronzes two years ago in Laos, will also be held there.

Camacho is on his fourth tour of duty as CDM.

LAYLO

SUMEZ

PICHAY CUP

Laylo escapes with crown

ILIRC—Filipino Grandmaster Darwin Laylo barely avoided another heartbreak finish by drawing with Chinese GM Wen Yao of China in the 18th and final round yesterday, clinching the title in the 2011 Chairman Prospero "Butch" Pichay Cup international chess championships at the Subic Bay Travelers Hotel.

Laylo lost his ninth round match against another Chinese, GM Li Shilong, and needed the draw, which came after 51 moves of the duel, to avoid a repeat of his collapse in the Asian Zonals last week where he led up to the ninth round only to outstrip eventually.

The 32-year-old pride of Cuyo City actually finished in a three-way tie for first with Yao and Li with similar scores of 7.5 points in the event organized by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines, Inc. Laylo emerged champion by virtue of a higher tiebreak score.

Laylo, Wen and Li, however, were rewarded with $4,333 each out of the guaranteed cash prize of $30,000 put up by NCFP president Pichay.

After the draw with Wen, Laylo agonized for nearly two hours waiting for the outcome of the match between Li and Georgian GM David Arutinian.

Needing a win, Li failed to parlay a slight endgame advantage against the higher-rated Armenian and settled for a draw, yielding the title to Laylo, who displayed the fruit of GM Joyce Granabo in 2008.

Granabo, the event's tournament director, also put into over foreign bets when he ruled the Asian Open chess championship-that-was.

Two-time Olympian GM Jaime Sosa Gomez who drew with Chinese Lu Shanghe in 50 moves of the Dutch opening to share fourth to 10th places with seven points each.

Gomez, who bats Asian Youth Under-16 gold medalist Jan Emmanuel Garcia in the ninth round, pocketed $1,214 for his effort.

Tied with Gomez are Lu, Antonius Mo Qun of China, GM Kuhzi of China, Asian Zone 3.3 champion GM Susanto Megaranto of Indonesia and Xu Zhichun of China.

Asian first GM Eugene Torre board IM Free Tamolo to climb to 6.5 points and share 11th-16th with junior world champion GM Hank Rocogian, IM Oliver Barbosa and IM Rolando Mojo.

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June 6, 2011.

ARLEEN A. AGAGIN
of ARION ENTERPRISES

QC makes Coke final while foes forge KO

QUEZON CITY dismissed Caloocan, 92-83, to clinch the first finals berth in the 2nd Town Cola Metropolitan Basketball Association championship last Tuesday, but its opponent in the best-of-three title showdown still to be settled.

Topping said Sampaloc went to play a knockout match last Saturday night to determine which team faces the Quezon City rogers for the crown.

Topping forged the MO battle with a tight 84-80 victory over defending champion last Tuesday. Game One of the final kicks off tomorrow.

Assistant coaches Ryan Bantay, elder brother of head coach Boy, called the shots for Quezon City, which took a 76-61 lead en route to the victory.

The win was QC's fourth win in the best-of-five and 14th overall in the grueling league for new varsity players.

2nd Merrell Adventure Run slated

DIRT ROADS, flowing streams, river crossings, rock scrambling and uphill and downhill trails await participants in the 2nd Merrell Adventure Run at the Timberland Heights in San Mateo, Rizal, on June 18.

Recreational runners will enjoy the challenge of the course while fun-seeking trail runners can view their leg power in the 10K division. To make this year's race more exciting, MAR opened a 21K division for hardcore trail runners.

Organizers advise participants, especially those joining the 21K race, to equip themselves with durable trail running shoes, hydration packs or water bottle belts, cap, gloves, running gaiters (shoe covers to keep dirt and water out) and energy bars or gels.

Assembly time for all divisions is 5 a.m. Gun start for 21K is 5:30 a.m., 5:30 a.m. for 10K, and 6 a.m. for 5K.

Registration is ongoing at Shiswell Concept Shops in Trinoma, Market Market Festival Mall in Alabang and Marquee Mall in Pampanga. Registration fees are P500 (5K), P650 (10K) and P800 (21K).

Forest Hills...

From page A13

gains first while Mei Enriquito, Rosalie Hao and Kimilan Flores added 24, 22 and 21 points, respectively, for the match's 135-total and a runner-up finish in the premier class.

Cuizhihong was led by Angie Bondoc's 30-Class B.

Arifi Mc 1601, Sharp dog 1411, Marilyn Co 1451 and Evelyn Mendiola 1359, six the other hand, led Forest Hills to Class C with a 369-

Azkals coach eyes fruitful German camp

By Cedrik F. Tupas

PHILIPPINE FOOTBALL team coach Michael Weiss is looking forward to using the Azkals in a tighter leash when they undergo a two-week camp in Germany starting Monday.

"We will not put them [on] prison, but we will have control over them," Weiss said Sunday night before leaving for Germany to make the necessary preparations for the camp in Emden, a city near the Dutch border three hours away from Frankfurt.

"We need to control if we want to get to the next level. They can't do outrage stuff in Germany. They are young players and there will always be temptations in a city like Manila."

Weiss had earlier rued the lack of focus of the team in Manila, where some players are preoccupied with a myriad of nonfootball-related activities.

But Weiss believes his team's mind-set is where it should be now three weeks before the 2014 Fifa World Cup Qualifying first round match against Sri Lanka.

Weiss said the upcoming trip to Germany will be enough to address any lacking in the Azkals' unbeat that was exposed in the 1-1 exhibition loss to a United Football League all-star last Sunday.

"There's no reason to make a drama out of it," he said, referring to the loss. "We know we have a long way to go."

"We lack the acquaintance in midfield but with the players that are still have in camp, I'm sure we will solve our problems," said the German coach, who expects Hilcariño midfielder Paul Mulders to make an immediate impact in the team.

The 30-year-old Mulders, who will see action for AGF Elite I hang in the Dutch first division, honed his skills in spin, which is known for developing the Netherlands' top players like Wesley Sneijder and Rafael Van der Vaart.

The Azkals, who leave for Germany on Sunday, will close camp in Manila today before launching their final outing "We Believe" campaign at the Rizal Memorial Athletic Center on Friday.

Linking up with the squad in Germany are Europe-based standouts Stu Jamieson, Manny Ott, Rob Gier, Stephan Schrock, Angel Guirado, Fernando Aretz Lucena and Dennis Cagara.

"We are now at 65 percent," Weiss said. "We have to grow together. It will be a tough challenge to play strong teams in Germany and I beg for understanding if we lose there but it will help us to progress."

Weiss is confident of overcoming Sri Lanka with the squad that he has now, which has been considered as the strongest assembled in years.

"But the selection must be good," he added.

JAKEN Salas (left) and the rest of the Azkals are under the microscope after some top UFL all-star side recently

Mikee new shooting president

HARBOUR CENTRE CEO Mikee Romero was elected unopposed as president of the Philippine National Shooting Association during a general assembly last Tuesday at the posh hotel's Orchid Ballroom.

Romero, ousted by the chaos of many pledged to be more transparent in running the affair of the PNSA and vowed to send more shooters in the Olympics.

"I would like to personally thank the whole board for trusting me to lead and lead this prestigious federation with the sole purpose of propagating shooting and developing future Olympians," said Romero, who drew the nod of all 14 directors of the PNSA board.

Romero took over from long-time chief Art Mamaguad, who resigned last March.

Board chair Boy Tirongkod earlier withdrew his bid to seek the top PNSA post, paving the way for the unanimous vote that made the 49-year-old Romero the youngest official to lead the PNSA.

"I'm now preparing a five-year program with the aim of producing more Olympians," said Romero, who will serve the remaining year of Mamaguad.

Romero, one of the owners of the now-to-be-launched AirAsia Phils., said his immediate concern is to push the five different shooting groups—moving target, pistol, rifle, practical and ISSF—to come up with a solid plan of action for the international participation in the coming Southeast Asian Games.

Romero, also a staunch baseball backer, hopes that the five groups can expand their membership base to have a deeper talent pool in each sport.

"The association has the big responsibility of planning shooting in the country and together, [we] will do just that," Romero said.

He said that Tirongcod is likely to remain his post while Ed Llanda-Escobar of tiffe may be tapped as secretary general with Jose Escobina as executive director.

REB. Cervantes (middle) will try to provide Mari Bordon with enough experience to lead with NLEX.

NLEX, C. Lhuillier target title slots

By Cedrik F. Tupas

TOP PICKS NLEX and Cebuana Lhuillier try to avenge a championship-clinching loss when they battle tonight in the PBA D-League Foundation Cup at the Ynares Sports Arena in Pasig.

The Road Warriors, tired but hyped for the playoffs, brace for a tough battle against the Mari Bordon-led Cebu Sharks at 6 p.m. with the winner advancing to the best-of-three finals.

The team will depend on the other Bordon, Jewel, against PC Gilmore at 2 p.m.

Cebuana Lhuillier coach Luigi Trillo has challenged his team to put up a strong defensive stand against SC Gilmore, which has crafty guards Allan Mangahas and Carlo Lastimosa.

PC Gilmore coach Richard del Rosario believes his team will be playing without pressure and hopes to use it to produce a solid outing.

"There's really no pressure on us," said Rosario. "However, since it's a knockout game, there's always a chance for an upset and we're going all out to make it to the finals."

NLEX counters that the semifinals with a 103-86 demolition of FGA Sunday.

In contrast, the Warriors needed a late basket from Bell Cervantes to hold off Blackcurrant, 73-71, in the quarterfinals.

While the Road Warriors have tall, athletic players who can attack the basket with impunity, the Warriors have experience on their side with a lineup buttressed by former collegiate standouts Jaypee Calunsa, Rudy Lingganay and Bell Cervantes.

"We can match up well with their big men. But I don't think we have answers for their experience," NLEX coach Boyet Fernandez said. "Hopefully we could match their intensity and take advantage of our quickness."

Pido Jarencio, the Mari Bordon Super Glue coach, said his team is capable of an upset.

"We have to keep the pressure on and grab the chances if it is presented to us," he said.

PH cagebelles to miss Fiba Asia tournament

By Jane Manalo

FOR FAILING to make a commitment to compete last year, the country is out of the 2011 Fiba Asia Championship for Women in August despite its status as Southeast Asian Basketball Association (Seaba) women's titlist.

The team, known as Discovery Belles, was left out of the draw for the tournament on Aug. 22 to 28 in Omura, Nagasaki, Japan, reported sources-bagga.com yesterday.

Asiabasket.Basketball.org Filipinas executive director Sonny Barrios confirmed the exclusion of the PH cagebelles from the tournament and said SBP has appealed to Fiba Asia officials to reconsider their decision.

Barrios said the Philippines should have been included in Level 2 where Malaysia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Singapore are set to compete.

"We were told that they're putting us in the wait list and the only chance we could enter is when a team backs out from the tournament," said Barrios.

He added that Fiba Asia secretary general Dato' Seah Choo Huck has promised to prioritize the request during the latter's visit last week in the Fiba Asia Champions Cup held at the Philsports Arena.

"We're keeping our fingers crossed."

This year's Asian championship for women is the qualifying tournament for the 2012 London Olympics.

Discovery Belles captured the 2011 Seaba women's crown after beating Thailand in the finals held at Filoil Ateneo Stadium last October.

But SBP deputy executive director Bernie Bitonio said Discovery Belles' stature in the Seaba has no bearing in the Asian championship.

Ateneo and Indonesia in Level 2 of the women's basketball tilt to see a three-time, first-serve basis, meaning that teams had formally informed Fiba that of their participation during the Fiba-Asia Congress in Kuala Lumpur last year.

MALARAYAT TILT

Rains wash out ICTSI golf

A HEAVY downpour halted play in the first round of the $50,000 ICTSI Mt. Malarayat Championship yesterday with around 25 players out of the starting field of 89 completing just five holes at the Mt. Malarayat Golf and Country Club in Lipa, Batangas.

"We called off the round at 5 p.m. due to simultaneous rains. No way the players could hold up to resume play," said tournament Ricsay Andrada.

He added that those who were able to play five holes will resume their respective rounds at 6:30 a.m. today with the rest to play 36 holes in what could turn out to be a test of endurance.

Bunsilo Jarlo Pagunsan was among those stranded at the clubhouse as he was set to tee off at 11:35 a.m. at the backside with Thai ace Atthaphon Prachaisuwan and Jun Bonus.

Pagunsan is tipped to contend for the top $8,126 purse in the 72-hole championship, sponsored by International Container Terminal Services Inc., which serves as the second leg of the Asian Golf Tour.

With back-to-back victories on the ICTSI Philippine Golf Tour the last three weeks, Pagunsan is also the reigning Order of Merit champion after winning one leg last year and earning $25,450 while playing in seven of 10 events.

He'll have a tough challenge this week, not only from the crack Thailand contingent but also from the local ace headed by Jay Bayron, Benbi Asinas, Tony Lascuña, Mars Pizon, Rufino Bautista, Elmer Salvador, Carlos Canet, Richard Zaldivar, Orlan Encinal, Dionnel Abalo, Mhark Fernando, Jerome Pennacort and Marvin Dumandan.

Prathummasuwan, runner-up to compatriot Poom Saksansin at the event's inaugural last month in Thailand, heads a strong 21-player Thai contingent, including Thawatchai Khongdha, Wisut Artjanawat, Witsawas Atiwanichpanich, Thanyakon Khrongpha, Wisut Artjanawat, Witsawas Atiwanichpanich Jamsawang, Khalid Weerasedtasil and Poomsan Khamlek.

JAY Bayron (left) awaits his turn in the rain.

Vera graces PXC debut

FILIPINO-AMERICAN mixed martial arts standout Brendan Vera will join 16 MMA fighters in an exhibition today at the Mall of Asia activity center.

The event is a prelude to the Pacific X-Treme Combat's debut in the country on June 18.

The exhibition will showcase the basics of MMA fighting styles, as well as the fighters' training and practice regimen in the run-up to the Pacific X-treme Combat (PXC 29) event at the Newport Performing Arts Theater of Resorts World Manila.

Two Filipino fighters—Carlos Tenorio and Angelito "Tonny" Pimentel—will join fighters from Brazil, Korea, California, Florida, Hawaii, Guam and Indiana during the exhibition.

Vera, known as "The Truth," has gained the country before, along with fellow MMA stars Georges St. Pierre and Chuck Liddell.

"We are very honored that one of UFC's top MMA fighters, and one of the Philippines' proudest sons, is here to support his fighters for PXC 29. We'd like to invite all MMA fans to come and support when PXC is all about," said ILC/abs, PXC promoter and general manager.

Vera will support his fighters, Rolando Dy and Diego Garlejo, from his Alliance Fight Academy in San Diego, California, who are fighting in the undercard.

PXC 29, presented by Sun Mig Strong Ice and Smart, along with Best Below Zero, Healthway and Monster Energy Extreme Punch, will feature eight exciting fights, including a heavyweight title bout between Roque Martinez of Davao and Dubai Pital of Baguio.

For details, log on to www.pxc.com.ph and www.facebook.com.ph for tickets.

VERA

PCBL CHAMP Hope Christian High principal Cirilo Pedro receives the championship trophy from Foreign representative Joel Tiu after winning the 6th Foreign PCBL high school basketball at the Bradbourne gym recently in Quezon City. With him are Foreign Finals MVP Jewel Villar (No. 5), team manager Bernard Tiu (standing 2nd from right) and coach Giovanni Tiu (standing far right).

Ring Mag editor doubts Mayweather-Ortiz bout

By Ronnie Nacharinka

THE PRESIDENT of Ring Magazine's editor in chief Nigel Collins has doubts about Floyd Mayweather Jr. fighting Victor Ortiz on Sept. 17 as announced by Mayweather.

"This is not even positive the fight will happen," Collins told the Inquirer Tuesday. "It's hard to say what Mayweather is thinking."

He noted that the undefeated fighter is "still facing serious criminal charges."

But he's not making the announcement from his prosecutor Golden Boy Promotions. Mayweather used his Twitter account to say that the fight is set because "my fans have been waiting long enough."

Ortiz responded shortly afterward, confirming the fight also on his Twitter account.

"I'm on cloud 9 to another great fight with pound for pound Floyd Mayweather! I am blessed," Ortiz posted.

Mayweather, the former No. 2 act in the Ring Magazine's pound-for-pound ranking behind Manny Pacquiao, also announced from the teams' last May 7 affair being tells for a year.

He was replaced by light middleweight champion Sergio Martinez. He last fought on May 1, 2010, scoring a unanimous 12-round decision over Shane Mosley.

Ortiz, on the other hand, is coming off a spectacular win over WBC welterweight champion Andre Berto last April. Ortiz lea southpaw who is not pursued in pre Mayweather problems should be fight push through.

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Aplus METRO
Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

DID YOU KNOW

9,000 January to March this year, there were 443 cases of car theft in Metro Manila. They contributed 23 percent of the total number of car theft cases nationwide during the period.
Artwork: Dominic Aquino-Rosario

Dentists to meet with police officials

'Reported cases just the tip of the iceberg'

By James T. Gardi

JUST the tip of the iceberg.

Top officials of the Philippine Dental Association (PDA) yesterday said the recent spate of robberies involving dental clinics in Metro Manila was just a small part of a bigger, more dismal picture.

PDA executive vice president Dr. Arturo Flores told the Inquirer that there had been several cases of vicious assaults being robbed and sexually abused in their clinics before but those were not reported to the police.

According to her, some of the victims wanted to maintain their privacy while others were afraid that their attacker would get back at them.

ARTIST sketch of suspect in Paco, Manila rape-robbery case.

"Dentists are really vulnerable," Reyes said.

Although she could not cite figures, she stated that even before last month's case in which a man robbed and raped a dentist in her clinic in Ibiza, Manila, there had been other incidents, the worst being that of a 22-year-old dentist who was robbed and killed inside her clinic in Cottonfield Subdivision, Caloocan City, in 2009.

29 stab wounds

Reyes added that the victim, who joined the PDA only recently, had been stabbed 29 times.

PDA president Dr. Robert Tajonera, meanwhile, said that there were two cases in Marikina City and Laguna province although these were not reported to the police.

He added that at future dialogue talks with other dentists, he would remind them how of other cases.

Tajonera observed that although there had been a number of robberies since the 1990s, the last that had occurred involved just last month was alarming.

"Before, they only stole equipment. These days, they even take lives and [their victims'] dignity," he said.

On Friday, the PDA will meet with officials of the Station 4 Capitol Police Office and Manila Police District in its Makati City headquarters to discuss possible security measures for the protection of its members.

The security measures will then be taken to the 14th anniversary of the PDA will soon to its 1,10 chapters nationwide.

Tajonera said they would also set up meetings with police officials in regions where cases had been reported.

At the same time, he urged his colleagues to be careful.

"Employ more manpower and install hidden closed-circuit television cameras, banners and short lights. Be alert about walk-in patients," he said.

SEEING RED Scaffolding with beneath the sprawling branches of a fire tree in full bloom on the University of the Philippines campus in Diliman, Quezon City. (JOAN BONDOC)

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Driver in hit-and-run mishap in QC identified

By Jaymee T. Gamil

TRAFFIC ENFORCERS of the safety of a hit-and-run victims in Tomohon, Quezon City has paid off.

The family of Rolando de Mesa, 49, a resident of Greenheights Subdivision in Novaliches, Quezon City, said the hospital's investigator that they had identified the driver of the van which struck him late noon from Allan Hudson.

Mesa, a Magnolia products agent, is a resident of Amaeli street in Novaliches.

On May 27, De Mesa had just finished from a visit on Quirino Highway on his way home from work when he was hit by a speeding white Isuzula APV van. De Mesa's mother, Lucrisinda, told the hospital in an interview at the Quezon City Police District Traffic Enforcement Unit.

The impact hurled De Mesa onto the opposite lane where he was hit by a motorcab whose driver gave himself up to the police.

De Mesa died due to a cracked skull, his nose, dynamo, and

Witnesses told the family that the white van's license plate was PDC 954 and that it had the word "Magnolia" printed on the side.

A check with the Land Transportation Office and San Miguel Corp. office in Ortigas, showed that Mojico was the driver of the vehicle at the time of the accident, prompting the filing of charges of reckless imprudence resulting in homicide and abandonment against him.

'No offer to sell condo to FPIC'

By Tina G. Santos

RESIDENTS of West Tower Condominium in Barangay Bangkal, Makati City yesterday denied the claim of First Philippine Industrial Corp. (FPIC) that they had offered to sell the building to the Lopez-owned firm for P2 billion.

"We want for P2 billion which is only small! to (have) purchase building but it includes many components like dampers and health fund," Manuel Chuasoto, the owner of nine of the units in the 33-story building, told the Inquirer.

Chuasoto was referring to the P2-billion compensation and damages may be paid the seller residences filed in March against FPIC with the Makati Regional Trial Court.

The other day FPIC president Tony Meloto said that the residents had been demanding "because they want us to buy the West Tower for P2 billion."

According to Meloto, FPIC had turned down the offer because the amount was "astronomically high." He added that the offer was made by condominium residents through their lawyer Lorna Kapunan.

Robert Dimayuga, president of the West Tower Homeowners Association, explained that the P2-billion damage suit against FPIC included the cost of replacing the residents' condominium units.

"It [replacement of units] costs around P900 million. Out of course, there are other damages like exemplary, actual and moral damages as well as lawyers' fees," he said in an interview.

According to him, the case was filed by (more) 50 percent of the residents in the building. West Tower has 177 unit owners.

He added that the amount they were seeking from FPIC included a residual fund, not only for West Tower residents, but also for other homeowners in the affected barangay.

"The residual fund will not go to our pockets but it will be an escrow account that will be used in the future when somebody gets sick as a result of (the oil leak) problems," Dimayuga said.

He added that eventually, FPIC would get the West Tower building "because the P2 billion already covers the replacement of our units. It would be undisputed, there if we get the P2 billion for damages and we wouldn't go of the building."

Dimayuga said Meloto's statement was just meant to sow confusion, especially in the minds of the public.

Tonight for comment, Meloto told the Inquirer that even before the filing of the P2-billion suit, the residents had asked FPIC to buy the building.

"They were requiring us to buy the property, initially at P2-6 billion. We disagreed. We told them we couldn't afford it and ... we didn't find it reasonable. Then they lowered the amount to P2.2 billion. We turned it down again and that's when they sued us," he said.

DON MARIANO MARCOS MEMORIAL STATE UNIVERSITY
Mid-Bid No. BFP(1)401-1017
Office of the University Bids and Awards Committee

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The [illegible] invites prospective [illegible] to apply for eligibility and to bid for the projects enumerated below:

Name of Project	Cost Estimate	ABC	Remarks
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

2. Prospective bidders should have a valid PCAB license and registration for the kind and cost under the category of the above projects. Applications for eligibility shall be made on the prescribed form and shall be submitted to the Office of the University Bids and Awards Committee (OUBAC) at the above address on or before [illegible]. Prospective bidders may obtain further information from the OUBAC and inspect the bidding documents at the above address during office hours.

3. All particulars relative to eligibility requirements, including the Statement of Contractor's Experience and Financial Capability, shall be submitted to the OUBAC at the above address on or before [illegible]. Failure to submit any of the requirements on the prescribed date shall be sufficient cause for disqualification.

4. The OUBAC reserves the right to reject any application for eligibility, to declare any bidder ineligible, to waive any minor defect in the application or in the bidding, and to accept or reject any bid, unless otherwise provided by law.

5. The schedule of activities is as follows:

Activity	Deadline	Time
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

6. All documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon submission of a duly accomplished application for eligibility and payment of a non-refundable fee for the bidding documents in the amount of [illegible] (P[illegible]). Bidders shall submit their sealed bids, which must be received by the OUBAC at the above address on or before [illegible]. Late bids shall not be accepted. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the above address.

7. The Bid Security shall be in the form of a Bid Bond, Cashier's/Manager's Check, Bank Draft/Guarantee or Irrevocable Letter of Credit issued by a reputable bank, callable on demand, in the amount of [illegible] percent (P[illegible]) of the ABC.

8. The University reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect therein, and to accept the bid most advantageous to the government.

9. For further information, please refer to:

APPROVED BY:

[illegible]
Chairperson
Office of the University Bids and Awards Committee

[illegible]
University President

MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE ACCOUNT PHILIPPINES

PROCUREMENT BIDDING FOR SUPPLIERS, CONTRACTORS AND CONSULTANTS
MCAP/REOI/510690

1. The Millennium Challenge Corporation ("MCC") of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (the "Governments" or "GRP") have entered into a Compact Agreement on September 23, 2011. Under the Compact, MCC will provide grant assistance to the GRP amounting to US$ 434 million to help facilitate poverty reduction through economic growth in the Philippines.

   The objective of the Program is to increase the incomes of Filipinos through the benefits of community-driven sub-projects, obtain time savings and lower transportation costs for road users in Program areas and increase investment and government expenditure due to an increase in tax revenues.

2. The Millennium Challenge Account-Philippines (MCAP) which oversees and manages the projects funded from the Grant Assistance intends to organize a briefing for suppliers, contractors, consultants (including individual consultants and consulting firms), as well as, observers from Civil Society Organizations interested to take part in the various procurements under said Grant Assistance.

3. The briefing shall be held at **Crowne Plaza, Ortigas**, on **June 14, 2011, 10:00 to 5:00pm**. Entry is free of charge, and the MCAP through its Procurement Agent shall provide presentation materials and refreshment for free.

4. Interested participants should send an email or letter indicating their interest to attend the briefing; the correspondence should provide the name, address and contact details of the supplier/contractor/consultant/observer. An email response confirming inclusion will be sent by the Procurement Agent.

5. All applications for attendance shall be sent to the address below, and received not later than **June 13, 2011** by **5:00** pm local time in the Philippines.

Millennium Challenge Account – Philippines
Attention: Eleonora Ten
Deputy Managing Director
Finance and Administration, MCA Philippines
c/o: Procurement Agent
Attention: Luis Villalla, Procurement Agent Manager
7/F EDPC Building, Department of Finance, BSP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Manila, Philippines 1004
Email: procurementagent@ebdci.com
Tel: +63 2 498 3430

'Billboards for commuters, not drivers'

By Jeannette I. Andrade

BILLBOARDS near distract, but accidents are more often the result of reckless driving.

Philippine Center for Gas-Oil Users' Health Research (Philcoguhre) executive director Lloyd Tronco told reporters in a press conference in Manila yesterday that this was the result of a study conducted by their group.

Tronco urged government agencies, particularly the Department of Public Works and Highways and the Metro Manila Development Authority to regulate the industry through policies "based on research, not knee-jerk reactions."

In the survey conducted on 600 respondents, aged 16 and above, conducted from May 15 to May 21, Tronco claimed 36 percent or 146 respondents ride private cars daily while 76 percent or 454 commuters remain at or behind.

Passengers

Of the 24 percent who ride cars, only 13 percent actually drive while the rest are passengers.

"The implication is billboards are there not for the drivers. The result, we reached 87 percent of non-drivers, so for them that billboards are traffic hazards deserves more study," Tronco pointed out.

"The billboards are built for commuters and nondrivers," he added.

Asked if the respondents liked to look at billboards, 52 percent of the respondents representing 493 per sons replied positively and almost half of the respondents admitted to having been moved to purchase products based on what they saw in outdoor advertisements.

Tronco said out-of-home media are the second strongest awareness builders, next to television.

The study conducted by the research group is patterned after the comprehensive outdoor study in the US, which asked 1,200 respondents representing a population of 300 million.

Snake pit

WHETHER it was the rival farmer group that recommended former Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez to President Aquino III's cabinet or the Palace's manipulation secretary, the fact is President Noy made the right decision not to appoint him Palace chief of staff.

The President bought peace to the stable pit that is Malacañang, with Ronaldo Puno as the new chief of staff, his Positions would have duplicated those of Executive Secretary Jojo Ochoa of the elite interior gang and the Suarez group.

Puno heads the Bataan group within the Aquino administration.

Had Puno become chief of staff, the infighting between Bataan and Ochoa's groups would have been so divisive it would have disrupted the President's political governance.

Did the people would be the losers in the end.

* * *

If Puno wants to become the next president of the Republic, he should aspire to become interior and local government secretary or he can be close to the people.

The most powerful position in the Cabinet in terms of running political mileage is the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), which has supervision of all local government units and the Philippine National Police (PNP).

* * *

During the administration of President Erap, then PNP chief Ping Lacson was dated for the DILG post, because even then, he already had his eyes on the presidency.

Lacson, an astute politician, knew early on that the DILG would have been his passport to Malacañang.

But this plan was scotched when Erap was kicked out of office by the citizenry through what is now called Edsa 2.

* * *

Anybody who aspires to become the next president should strive to get the DILG post.

Once he becomes DILG chief, he should be chummy-chummy with all governors and mayors and very hard on policemen who abuse civilians.

The DILG chief is concurrent chair of the National Police Commission (Napolcom) that has direct control and supervision over the PNP.

* * *

As Napolcom chair, the DILG chief has the wherewithal to punish abusive cops.

Citizens, especially the poor and the helpless ones, love officials who champion their rights.

Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin was elected president because he promised soldiers who abused civilians.

Davao City Vice Mayor Rody Duterte is very much loved by his constituents because he has curbed not only criminality but abuses committed by policemen against civilians.

* * *

Members of the House justice committee and Justice Secretary Leila de Lima can be themselves the great divide of the Sen. Miriam Defensor (MD) between poor and rich senators.

Rich senators live inside "bullet" (bunker like built for themselves, complete with electric fan and home appliances and follow inmates as servants.

Poor senators are confined in cramped cells.

This practice, which Commissioner Ricardo Treñas was trying to stop until he was burned at the stake, should be put to an end completely.

Everybody should be treated as an equal in this country, most especially inside prisons.

* * *

And now a joke to neutralize the bad news.

Two terrorists had just finished making letter bombs.

Terrorist 1: Do you think I put enough explosives in the envelope?

T2: I don't know! Open it and see.

T1: But it will explode!

T2: Don't be stupid! The envelope is not addressed to us.

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

METROBRIEFS

Police to probe colleagues

THE PCER, provincial police have started investigating a former towns director's complaint that policemen in Antipolo City failed to act on his complaint against an alleged land-grabber. The regional police office director said he took note it. But we are still waiting for [illegible] to submit [illegible] necessary documents," Senior Supt. Manuel Pinlac, PCER police director, told the Inquirer. Sarmiento, 78, earlier reported that a group of men attacked him and his family four times before taking over a portion of his 1,000-sq m lot on Sumulong Highway. Sarmiento identified the men who took his property as businessman Arnel Lucas. The Inquirer tried to get his side of the story but Lucas refused to be interviewed and told the Inquirer that Sarmiento's claims were all lies.

Rito Delfin

'No to spoiled meat'

A MANILA councilor yesterday filed a resolution pushing for the effective implementation of a city ordinance that penalizes the sale or trade of meat unfit for human consumption. "This is just a reminder to the city health officers and an effort to protect the people from the illicit trade of 'double-dead' fish meat," Councilor DJ Bagatsing told the Inquirer.

Marlore Irene F. Tanseco

FLASH FLOOD

A boy enjoys a swim on a flooded street in Makati City as a low pressure area brings rains to Metro Manila.

WORLDBRIEFS

Calling on DSK victims

PARIS — The lawyer for the New York hotel maid who accused Dominique Strauss-Kahn of trying to rape her has appealed on French television for other women with claims against the former IMF chief to come forward. "If there are any other women in France or in Africa who may have been abused by Dominique Strauss-Kahn, please call her contact her, we want to meet you, we want to talk to you," lawyer Kenneth Thompson, who is representing the 32-year-old chambermaid, told Télé TV. His made a similar appeal on Tuesday evening on France 2 television. **Reuters**

E.Coli cases down

BERLIN — The number of new cases of Germans contracting a deadly strain of E.coli bacteria are declining significantly, German health minister Daniel Bahr told German television on Wednesday. "There will be new cases and unfortunately we have to expect more deaths, but the number of new infections are dropping significantly," Bahr said in an interview with ARD television channel. "I cannot sound the all clear, but after analyzing the latest data we have reasonable cause for hope," Bahr sounded more upbeat than on Tuesday, when he said he was "cautiously optimistic" that the worst was over. **Reuters**

N. Korea tests fire missile

SEOUL — North Korea tested a short-range missile last week in an apparent effort to improve its missile capabilities, a South Korean official said on Wednesday amid renewed tension on the Korean peninsula. North Korea reportedly test-fired a missile in a March South Korea military exercise to protect soldiers' use of photos of Pyongyang ruling family as targets during firing drills. The North conducted a routine test launch of a KN-06 surface-to-air missile off its western coast sometime last week, the South Korean official said, requesting anonymity because he was not authorized to confirm the launch. The KN-06 is an upgraded version of KN-01 and KN-02 missiles, which have a range of about 130 km, and the launch appeared aimed at testing the new missile's improved range and accuracy, the official said. **AP**

Giant phallic symbol

ATLANTA — New Zealand students have put their schooling to use by drawing giant phallic symbols over its playing fields with vandalism in a stark contradiction on Internet satellite service Google Earth. While the worst local place-names like Wet Jacket Arm, Mount Disappointment and Cape Runaway Cop, did not escape Redditors' mapping of Hamilton for Google Earth, mapping web users cop an awful whatever they view Normal College. Lead student David McQuoid told the Waikato Times he was online searching for a property when he came across the crude drawings, some of which measure almost 70 meters long. "At first I thought it was a large piece of art work," he told the newspaper. The school's acting principal Barbara Cox told McQuoid censoring the drawings before they were found by students, as Google Earth images were directly from satellites, unlike those used for Google Street View. **AFP**

Naked Irish rower rescued

DUBLIN — An Irish man attempting to row across the Indian Ocean naked was rescued on Tuesday after he was hit by a large wave and banged his head. Keith Whelan, 30, was trying to become the youngest man, and first Irishman, to complete the 5,000-kilometer journey, but came to grief in rough seas off Western Australia. He was picked up by a Japanese ship some 200 km northwest of Geraldton. "He was ferried by a water more night and was taken aboard a large ship to be treated," a spokesperson at the Australian Maritime Safety Authority told AFP. "He made a satellite phone call to a contact in the United Kingdom who then contacted Australian authorities and we dispatched a maritime rescue helicopter to pick him up." On his website, Whelan said he was attempting the epic voyage naked to raise money for Keep a Child Alive, a charity dedicated to helping children and families affected by HIV/AIDS. **AFP**

Japan admits being unprepared for nuke disaster

TOKYO — Japan on Tuesday admitted it was unprepared for a severe nuclear accident like the tsunami-caused Fukushima disaster and said damage to the reactors and radiation leakage were worse than it previously thought.

In a report being submitted to the UN nuclear agency, the government also admitted chief reactor developer Tepco and a need for greater independence for the country's nuclear regulators.

The report said the nuclear fuel in three reactors likely melted through the inner containment vessels, not just the core, after the March 11 earthquake and tsunami knocked out the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant's power and cooling systems. Fuel in the Unit 1 reactor started melting hours earlier than previously estimated.

The 150-page report, compiled by Japan's nuclear emergency task force, features in a preliminary evaluation by a team from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and was to be submitted to the IAEA as requested.

"In light of the lessons learned from the accident, Japan has recognized that a fundamental revision of its nuclear safety preparedness and response is inevitable," the report said. It also recommended a national debate on nuclear power.

The report said the flaws in basic reactor design—the Mark-1 model developed by General Electric—included the venting system in the containment vessels and the buildup of quantities of cooling pools high in the buildings, which resulted in leaks of radioactive water that hampered repair work.

GE's website says 32 Mark-1 reactors, designed 40 years ago and upgraded since, still operate around the world.

Japan's report also noted that the six reactor Fukushima plant pulled up two reactors to share some facilities and equipment, also delaying the accident response.

The report said the vents lacked filtering capability causing contamination of the air, and the vent line layers failed with severe hydrogen explosions.

Desperate attempts by plant workers to vent pressures to prevent the containment vessels from bursting repeatedly failed. Experts have said the delay in venting was a primary cause of explosions that further damaged the reactors and spewed huge amounts of radiation over the air. The report also noted the containment containment buildings should have had vents to prevent a series of explosions at three units.

The melted cores and subsequent leaks have irradiated seawater, including two control room operators whose exposures have exceeded the government limit.

Earlier Tuesday, the Health and Labor Ministry separately raised the plant to investigate if Tepco had adequate training. **AP**

THE SHAPE family evacuates from their home in the Widow fire approaches in Sportsville, Arizona. The blaze has burned 866 square miles of ponderosa pine forest.

Thousands flee Arizona town as forest fire nears

SPRINGERVILLE — Flames from a mammoth forest fire lashed the ridges surrounding the eastern Arizona town of Eagar, forcing the evacuation of about half the 4,000 residents as encroaching towns also prepared to empty.

People started streaming out of Eagar on Tuesday as sheriff's deputies and police officers directed traffic. Flames were spotted on a ridge on the southeastern side of nearby Springerville and columns of orange smoke rose from the hills. Ash rained from the sky, which was filled with thick smoke, and when the sun peeked through, it was blood red.

Angie Colwell, her husband Mike and their two children were loading up their belongings as an evacuation ordered their Eagar neighborhood to go.

"We have the mountains and we've just about all of what's going to be left after the fire comes through," the longtime resident said. **AP**

Yemen leader hurt seriously in attack

SANAA — President Ali Abdullah Saleh was hurt and over 40 percent of his body and suffered bleeding in the brain from last week's attack on his palace, US officials said, indicating his wounds were worse than initially reported.

The revelation casts doubts on a quick return to Yemen and spells a deepening power vacuum.

In the wake of Saleh's evacuation to Saudi Arabia for treatment, Yemen's violence escalated, with government troops battling Islamic militants and opposition tribesmen in two northern cities on Tuesday. The military said it killed 20 Al-Qaeda militants among a group that took over the city of Zinjibar last week amid the country's turmoil.

The United States fears that al-Qaeda's branch in Yemen — one of the most active, virulent cells worldwide — will seize advantage of the chaos to strengthen its base in the country.

Washington and Saudi Arabia are pushing Yemeni officials to exploit the opportunity of Saleh's evacuation to immediately begin a transfer of power and formation of a new government.

The US ambassador in Sanaa spoke with Vice President Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi, who is acting president, to press the American view, State Department spokesperson Mark Toner told reporters Tuesday in Washington.

Toner said he wasn't sure how long Saleh would undergo treatment in Saudi Arabia, or whether he still planned on returning. But he said Yemen needed to move forward in the meantime.

"We need to see all sides moving forward on a constructive basis," he said.

Friday's attack on Saleh's palace compound came amid two weeks of battles in Sanaa between government forces and opposition tribesmen determined to drive him from power.

The fighting pushed the impoverished country closer to civil war after four months of street protests by hundreds of thousands of Yemenis calling for Saleh, who has been in power for nearly 33 years.

On Monday, Saleh said Saleh, in his late 60s, was improving after a series of operations in Saudi Arabia and would return home "within days." If Saleh were to return, it would almost certainly re-ignite the fighting in the capital, which is only barely being contained by a tenuous ceasefire.

But the revelations by US officials suggested Saleh was in no condition to return soon. Three officials said Saleh, in his late 60s, had burns over 40 percent of his body and bleeding in his skull. They spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the situation.

Yemeni officials said Saleh suffered heavy burns on his face, neck and chest. One of the operations in Saudi Arabia was to remove wood fragments embedded in his chest. **AP**

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

INVITATION TO BID

PSALM Power Sector Assets & Liabilities Management Corporation

Republic of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID FOR

Procurement of Operation and Maintenance Service Contract for the 650 MW Malaya Thermal Power Plant located in Pililla, Rizal

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The WORLD

Lira Lorraine B. Suico

Nato jets pound Gadhafi's compound

TRIPOLI—Loud explosions rocked Tripoli early on Wednesday as Nato kept up its heaviest bombing of the the Libyan capital since air strikes began in March, but Moammar Gadhafi vowed to fight to the end.

Attacks continued through Tuesday night and into Wednesday morning with explosions rocking the city several times an hour.

The Libyan leader's government said bombs had killed 31 people.

Strong plumes were overhead and bombs were falling around him, Gadhafi spoke defiantly after two strikes on his Bab-al-Aziziya compound.

"We only have one choice: we will stay in our land dead or alive," he said in a rare audio address on state television.

A lone shrouded trooper at what it said was a meeting between Gadhafi and rebel leaders in Sunday.

US President Barack Obama said in Washington there was significant progress in the operation and it was "just a matter of time before Gadhafi goes".

At least 31 people were killed in 60 strikes on Tripoli, government spokesperson Moussa Ibrahim told reporters. He accused Nato of "barbarism" and "terrorism".

"How could the world deny tonight knowing that scores of such evil are willingly and knowingly committing a genocide against unity 60 civilians and killing people... while there is a war out of this. To sit down, talk and negotiate," Ibrahim said.

A British defense official said several eyewitnesses carried out by fighter aircraft had targeted Gadhafi's secret police headquarters and a military installation on Tripoli's southwestern outskirts.

Gadhafi's troops and the rebels have been deadlocked for weeks, with neither side able to hold territory on a road between Ajdabiyah in the east, which Gadhafi's forces shelled on Monday, and the Gadhafi-held oil town of Brega further west.

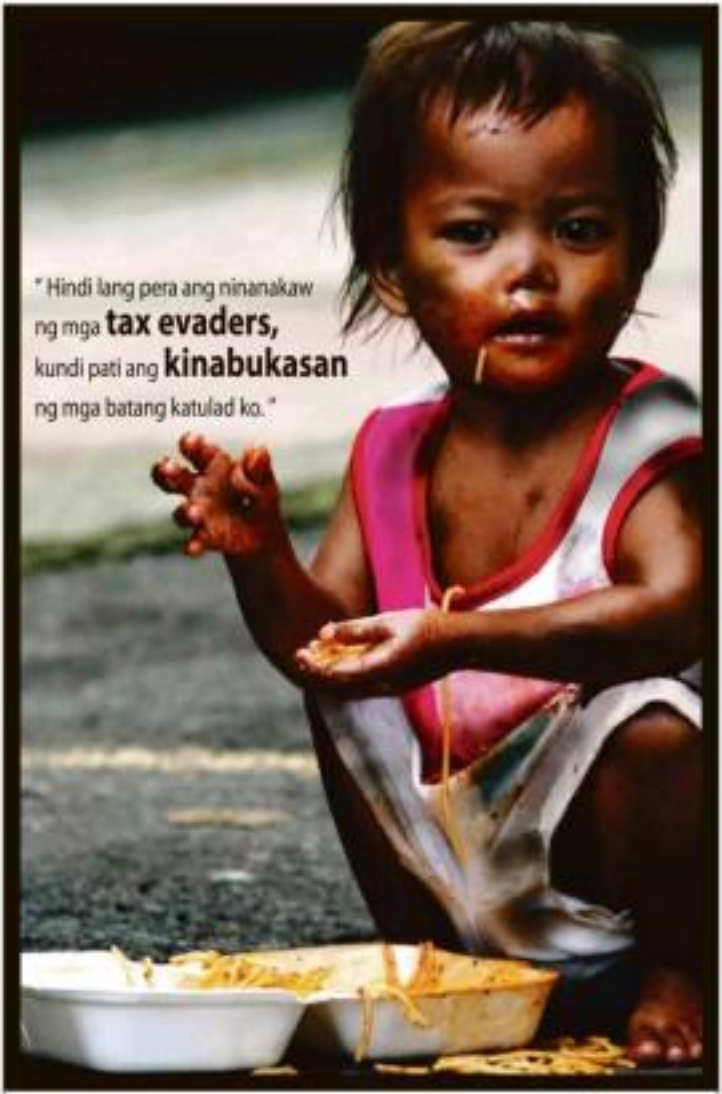
Fighting control the east of Libya, the western city of Misrata and the range of mountains near the Tunisian.

They have been unable to advance on the capital against Gadhafi's better-equipped fighters.

Gadhafi's forces pulled back to high ground in the Western Mountains outside Yafran, 120 km southwest of Tripoli. The rebels broke a long government siege of the town on Monday.

But a rebel commander in Zintan, in the same region, said Gadhafi forces were massing on Tuesday in their biggest numbers and he was since the start of the conflict.

Diplomatic contacts were being made to the rebels by world powers, including Russia and China, despite their misgivings about interference in Libya's affairs. Reuters



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THESunspot by Nasa shows the Sun unleashing a medium-sized solar flare, a minor radiation storm and a spectacular coronal mass ejection on June 7. AP

Solar flare threatens power, satellites

WASHINGTON—An unusual solar flare observed by a Nasa space observatory on Tuesday could cause some disruptions to satellite communications and power on Earth over the next day or so, officials said.

The massive blast from the Sun unleashed a 2 trillion megaton of radiation on a level not witnessed since 2006, and still likely lead to moderate geomagnetic storms unlikely to blackmailing according to the National Weather Service.

"This one was rather dramatic," said Bill Murtagh, program coordinator at the NWS's Space Weather Prediction Center, describing the M-2 (medium-sized) solar flare that peaked at 1:41 a.m. Eastern time in the United States.

"We saw the initial flare occurring and it wasn't like [a] typical flare [in] a region associated with it—we got energetic particle radiation flowing in and we got a big coronal mass ejection," he said.

"We can see all the materials blasting up from the surface in a gas fountain to look at."

Nasa's solar Dynamics observatory, which recorded last years and provided the high-definition pictures and video of the event, described it as "visually spectacular," but noted that since the eruption was not pointed directly at Earth, the effects were expected to remain "fairly small."

"The large cloud of particles mushroomed up and left back down looking as if it covered an area of almost half the solar surface," said a Nasa statement.

Murtagh said space weather analysts were watching closely to see whether the event would cause any collision of magnetic fields between the Sun and Earth, some 150 million miles away.

"Part of our job there is to monitor and determine whether if a Xrath-directed [release essentially that comes in that is blasting out to go with magnetic field constituent," he told AFP.

"In a day or so from now we are expecting the arrival of that material to impact or have an Earth and create a geomagnetic storm," he said.

"We don't expect it to be any kind of a real severe one but it could be kind of a moderate level storm."

The Space Weather Prediction Center said the storm is "expected to cause G1 (minor to G2 (moderate) levels of geomagnetic storm activity tomorrow, June 8. (June 9 in Manila)." Any geomagnetic storm activity is still likely for one million 12-24 hours.

"The Solar Radiation Storm includes a significant constellation of high energy protons, the first such occurrence of an event of that type since December 2006," the NWS said.

As many as 12 satellites and spacewalk are monitoring the heliosphere, and one instrument in particular on board Nasa's lunar reconnaissance orbiter is measuring radiation and its effects. AFP

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Editor Raul O. Manalo • Assistant Editor Carmie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

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■ Ford sales soar 63% to 3,968 units as of May /B4

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
43.240

STOCK MARKET
18.99

Local stocks rebound despite Fed jitters

LOCAL STOCKS rebounded on Wednesday as bargain-hunters found selective equities tempting after a three-day slump, shrugging off American jitters caused by US Federal Reserve chair Ben Bernanke's grim outlook on the US economy.

Thereafter share Philippine Stock Exchange index added 18.99 points or 0.45 percent to 4,224.44.

Justine Calacup Jr., a dealer at Accord Capital Cashier Corp., said Bernanke had erased most of the previous session's losses as investors overlooked bullish data that showed a 4.2 percent inflation rate for May. **Doris C. Dumlao**

BSP seen holding off rate hike

Economists expect pause after tame May inflation

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE TAMER-THAN-EXPECTED May inflation rate may give the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas leeway to pause its monetary tightening cycle during its next policy rate setting meeting next week, according to economists.

The BSP is likely to leave its overnight borrowing rate at 4.5 percent at the Monetary Board's June 16 meeting after the inflation rate for May was reported at 4.3 percent, which was lower than market expectations of an above 5 percent rate of increase in consumer prices during the period, economists from Citigroup, HSBC and Bank of the Philippine Islands said.

"This accelerates our view that Basel underspending and subdued oil or commodity price outlook would drive the rate pause event to the third quarter of 2011," Citi economist Jun Trinidad said in a research note.

International crude oil prices have stayed at elevated levels over the last few months, but local inflation has yet to breach the 5 percent mark—the high end of BSP's target range, Trinidad noted.

"While 'unanimously' cite upside potential could still happen on the back of higher cost-driven, the story is to taking suggests the pace of inflation may not be as fast as initially expected leading to a peak within the 3 percent range rather than the 4 percent range," he said.

The BSP will likely pause during its policy meeting next week amid economic tightening with a 25 basis point rate hike in July, HSBC economist Sherman Chan said in a separate research note.

Despite a pickup in energy prices, inflation in May had come in far below expectations, thanks to well contained food prices, Chan said.

"While global economic data becoming more uncertain, however, the BSP can afford to sit

>>> B2

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PDIC unable to reach 25,000 small BF depositors

Concerned parties need to file claim forms

By Rainier M. Domingo

DEPOSITORS WITH less P10,000 or less with Banco Filipino Savings and Mortgage Bank should file their claims with Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp., as the agency has no way of reaching some 25,000 of them.

PDIC executive vice president Cristino G. Ortheza, who is also the agency's officer in-charge, said yesterday the agency had been sending payments to Banco Filipino's small depositors but thousands of such accounts had incomplete data.

The state deposit insurer earlier said that filing of claims for small accounts was waived for deposits with complete names and addresses on record.

However, Ortheza said more than 25,000 such accounts were found to have incomplete names and addresses or no addresses on record.

These depositors will not receive check payments by June 20, especially the last day of payments of claims for small deposits, and that they would have to file their deposit insurance claims, she said.

These claims should be processed during the scheduled claims filing and operations (CFO) for Banco Filipino in designated CFO sites, she added.

Ortheza said that during the CFO, valid claims with complete supporting documents would be paid onsite.

But those who might be found deficient in supporting documents will be required to submit additional documents.

Those filing claims—which may be done by mail—must submit an accomplished claim form that is available in the PDIC office, CFO sites or the PDIC website (www.pdic.gov.ph).

Claimants should also vow in an original copy of their passports, evidence of time deposit, bank statements, issued checks or ATM cards.

They should also submit clear photocopies of two valid IDs bearing the photos and signatures of the depositors or claimants.

Ortheza said the screening of new claims would be undertaken in three batches from middle of June to Sep. 19.

PDIC is "committed to pay deposit insurance for all valid deposits as soon as possible," she said.

Ortheza said the PDIC has paid more than 175,000 depositors with deposits of P1,000 and less.

She said payments for these valid accounts—in the form of postal money orders—were sent directly to the depositors' last known address based on Banco Filipino records.

FIT on the ground

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Bautista III

FINALLY, AFTER only about a year of delay, the government just came up with the rates that we, the public, must pay for RE—and, the well-liked environment-friendly "renewable energy."

And immediately, of course, the power generation industry sees something wrong in the proposed rates. They say the rates seem to heavily favor certain forms of RE. The rates that are so high, so unreachable that they seem to be up in the clouds. And in a country like ours, where more than 50 million people are poor, government politicos must be firmly planted on the ground.

Tasked by the law to formulate the rates, technically known as FIT or "feed-in tariff," was the National Renewable Energy Board (NREB).

It recently submitted its proposed rates to the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), which presumably is ready (but not yet) to give the approval.

For the sake of some boys in the Palace who have playing with PI 1B, we have a law called RA 9513, or the Renewable Energy Law, since November 2008.

It provides incentives for investments in RE to attract foreign funds, which are now concentrated on solar and wind energy.

In other countries, the FIT is generally higher than the rates allowed by conventional, for power generated from fossil fuel, such as coal and oil.

Such a trend tells us that even foreign governments want to encourage investments in RE, even if consumers must pay the price in the form of higher power rates. They are rich countries like Germany and France.

Anyway, the NREB listed up the RE sources for the proposed rates, namely, hydro, biomass, wind, ocean thermal and solar.

But the NREB proposed rates are much higher for solar and wind RE technologies than, for instance, hydro or biomass.

If the NREB will have its way we will pay about P18 per kilowatthour (kwh) for solar power, and more than P10 per kwh for wind power.

In comparison, the FIT set by the NREB for hydro is only P6 per kwh.

But, the several years that even way before the RE Law was passed, the Philippines already had a well developed RE source in hydropower.

Today, hydro accounts for about 32 percent of our total power generation.

In the United States, in comparison, the proportion of RE to total generation is only 10 percent.

In fact, in terms of power rates, hydro can compete head-on with the other energy sources, including the cheap coal, without needing subsidy.

And so why does the NREB, in its proposed rates for RE, seem to favor wind and solar power.

In the power scene, they are saying that the reliability of both solar and wind power is questionable. Power generation from these sources is highly intermittent.

For instance, based on the projection of the NREB, we can rely on wind power for only 23 percent of the plant's capacity. For solar power, it is even a lower 17 percent.

Thus supposedly we must back up solar and wind power with others—and more reliable—forms of power generation, which are really just power from fossil fuel: fire, oil and coal!

Still based on figures from the NREB, the price that we pay for the "subsidy" or "incentive" or whatever it be RE will be substantial—to the tune of P9.4 billion a year.

And so the question is this: Why must we pay P18 per kwh for solar power, when even at present, without the FIT, we can subsidize, incentivize, or whatever, hydro can deliver the power for only P6 per kwh?

Well, one reason could be the reported $1 billion in investments that are pending in RE, waiting for the FIT. Needless to say, of these are foreign investments. The proponents have been demanding from the government, ah, shall we say, the "right" FIT.

I think we will still have the second highest power rates in the whole of Asia for a long, long time.

***

Despite our perennial problems called street flooding, uncollected garbage, and horrendous traffic, Chairmanly should also vote in an original copy of their passports, evidence of time deposit, bank statements, issued checks or ATM cards.

They should also submit clear photocopies of two valid IDs bearing the photos and signatures of the depositors or claimants.

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

BSP seen holding off rate hike

back in June before stepping up again in July," she stressed.

Both of the Philippine Islands economist and head of research Emilio Neri Jr. agreed that the faster than expected May inflation rate had increased the probability that the BSP would pause this month after raising key interest rates by a total of 100 basis points.

"Even if May's headline hike on the 16th (of June), the main inflation figure signaled that the BSP is already winding down on its tightening cycle," Neri said in an interview.

For the five-month period, the country's inflation rate averaged 4.2 percent, which is well within the BSP's 3.5 percent goal.

BPI sees the country's inflation rate averaging 5.0 percent for the whole year, which is likewise within the BSP's target range.

Neri said the BSP may monitor one more quarter percentage point interest rate hike by July or September.

"We're hoping the (softening of) global oil prices will also give the BSP the scope to pause," he said.

BSBC says at least three more rate hikes being delivered over the second half, taking the BSP's overnight borrowing rate to 5.25 percent by year-end from 4.25 percent.

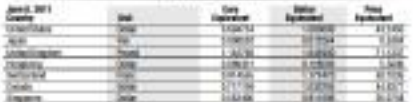
Chan is expecting Philippine inflation rate to temporarily breach the BSP's target band, resulting in a higher average for the full year. But BSBC lowered the 2011 inflation average forecast for the Philippines from 5.4 percent to 5 percent, right within the upper band of the BSP's target range.

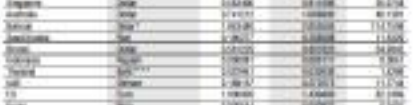
"Assuming that energy and soft commodity prices remain well behaved during the second half of this year, headline inflation may ease further into next year, possibly averaging 4.3 percent for 2012," Chan said.

Citi's Walstad said a protracted rate pause next week need not imply an outright shift to a neutral rate stance.

"A positive output gap of 1 percent in the second quarter of 2011, on four solid manufacturing sectors, can exceeding 80 percent, despite factors considerable in upside inflation risk. With a 50-basis point hike in place and low currency to offset the policy rate, policymakers have the luxury to pause and assess the need for further adjustments," she said.

Output gap refers to the difference between the actual output of an economy and the output it could achieve when it is more efficient, or at full capacity. A positive output gap occurs when actual output is more than the full-capacity output.





Show escrow account, CJHDevco dared

By Abigail L. Ho

THE BASES Conversion and Development Authority is challenging Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDevco) to make public the escrow account that it allegedly opened in 2008, to secure the government agency of its payment of the lease for the 247-hectare Camp John Hay property in Baguio City.

In a statement issued yesterday, BCDA vice president for business development and operations Dean Gamaga said the opening of an escrow account was required under the security agreement between BCDA and CJHDevco which was signed together with the restructuring memorandum of agreement (RMOA) on July 1, 2008.

While the security agreement had been in place for almost three years now, he said CJHDevco never opened an escrow account.

"What escrow account are they talking about? If they really opened one, BCDA is not a party to it. We do not know what it is for and how much is the actual amount in the account," he said.

"We challenge CJHDevco to make the account public, if they did open one, so that everyone would see if they have complied with the lease agreement or not. We want to examine the account and see how CJHDevco arrived at the amounts deposited based on their so-called 'proportionate rentals computation in the Development areas in the John Hay Special Economic Zone," he added.

If such an account existed, as CJHDevco claimed, he said BCDA should be made aware of the amount deposited, as well as allowed to close/bank it. The required escrow account, after all, was supposed to serve as a guarantee of CJHDevco's obligations to BCDA.

The security agreement required CJHDevco to deposit 50 percent of actual commercial usage service assessment collections upon signing.

The closure of the escrow account, Gamaga said, was tantamount to a violation of the 2008 security agreement.

The unpaid lease rentals of the Ayala-led CJHDevco for the Camp John Hay property had ballooned to more than P2.1 billion, representing lease payments from 1999 to June 30, 2008, when the lease contract for the property was last restructured.

CJHDevco incurred another P372 million in arrears from September 2009 to March 2011, representing unpaid current rentals.

₱1B released for water program

By Bernadette W. Domingo

MALACAÑANG HAS released P1 billion to fund a nationwide potable water supply program which was meant to benefit 138 poor towns, Budget Secretary Florencio B. Abad said yesterday.

Abad said the program was previously slated at seven where beneficiaries of the conditional cash transfer (CCT) program reside.

The allotment "will be used to construct level 1 and level 2 water supply systems in beneficiary municipalities or the upgrading and rehabilitation of existing systems," he said.

A level 1 system is one that provides water at single points or stand-alone, such as shallow well, hand pumps or rainwater collectors.

Level 2 refers to a system with piped water supply tapped from a spring or

Ford sales soar 63% to 3,968 units as of May

By Abigail L. Hu

Robust demand for Fiesta, Everest bumps up revenue

SALES OF vehicles under the Ford brand in the country surged 63 percent to 3,968 units in the first five months, despite a temporary work stoppage implemented in April and to reductions in production because of the Japan crisis.

According to data from Ford Group Philippines (FGP), sales in May alone jumped 65 percent to 917 units, driven by the strong performance of the sub-compact Fiesta.

FGP has month-old 324 units of the Fiesta, making it the company's strongest selling nameplate.

This brought total Fiesta sales to 1,466 units from January to May.

"Sales of the all-new Fiesta are contributing to our strong performance and reinforcement to strategic role in transforming our business. The Fiesta is attracting a wide range of Filipino customers who appreciate its class-leading style, smart technology, superior fuel efficiency and unparalleled safety in a small car," FGP president Randy Bringe said in a statement issued yesterday.

Sales of another strong model, the Everest, likewise increased by 47 percent in May to 220 units.

FGP also sold 1,02 units of the Ranger, an improvement of 39 percent from the same month last year, and 61 units of the Focus.

"We're continuing to experience strong demand across our full product lineup, and that is contributing to our sales performance. It's a strong indication that our One Ford strategy is working and we're offering the right vehicles in the market that suit a diverse range of Filipino lifestyles and requirements," Bringe said.

The March 11 Japan earthquake damaged plants producing crucial auto parts and components as well as critical logistics links, effectively causing a disruption in the auto supply chain.

This forced FGP to advance its scheduled down days to April while waiting for the necessary parts and components to be delivered to the country.

According to FGP, the temporary shutdowns of its manufacturing facility in Sta. Rosa, Laguna was merely precautionary, to ensure that the parts on inventory would be enough to last the company until fresh supplies arrive to.

Reciprocity of air rights sought

By Paola G. Mantesillo

THE GOVERNMENT should put in more safeguards in the implementing rules for the administration's "open skies" policy to ensure that local airlines can stay competitive against bigger foreign players.

Reform Line Joseph, founding leader of several travel organizations and a co-convenor of the Air Trade Alliance (ITA) headed by former Sec. Peghasus Tutuca, appealed to the government to amend the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of Executive Order (EO) 29 to specifically put in the word "reciprocity" for the protection of the local aviation industry.

Joseph noted that Section 2.1 of the IRR proposes to offer landing rights to foreign airlines, including 5th freedom rights, "without restrictions on frequency, capacity and type of aircraft and other arrangements to and from any secondary gateway."

However, Joseph said, the same provision did not mention to guarantee reciprocity or equal exchange of air rights to the local carriers.

Joseph said the term "national interest" in the IRR could not guarantee protection to local carriers as it could be subject to different interpretations and the whims of those in the air panel.

"If the government's intention is to boost tourism, why allow 5th freedom rights on foreign carriers alone this moderate will bring passengers not instead of into the Philippines," he said in a statement.

Fifth freedom is the right of an airline from one country to land in a second country, then pick up passengers and fly on to a third country where the passengers then disembark.

He expressed concern that the DBS, absent a clear directive to grant internal offcials to seek reciprocity for local carriers during air talks, would be prone to abuse, specifically the grant of fifth freedom rights.

He said nothing will stop now the grant of fifth freedom rights to Singaporean or Malaysian airlines, which are among the biggest in the region, from Clark to the United States or any third country.

The government's "open skies" policy was implemented earlier this year to liberalize the granting of flight rights to foreign airlines, with the aim of boosting the country's international air traffic.

COCA-COLA INAUGURATES NEW PLANT IN MISAMIS ORIENTAL

Coca-Cola Bevders Philippines (CCBP) inaugurates its newest and most technologically advanced plant in Villanueva, Misamis Oriental, approximately an hour away from Cagayan de Oro City. The plant, which sits on an 11-hectare property, is part of the company's announced investment in the Philippines of $1 billion over the next five years, to strengthen production, distribution and the development of new products.

BUREAU OF THE PHILIPPINES
REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DepED

PROCUREMENT SERVICE
Room 307-308, 3rd Floor Mabini Building, DepED Complex,
Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines
Website: www.deped.gov.ph
e-mail: deped_procurementservice@yahoo.com.ph
(FAX) DIRECT LINE: 638-63-43 / 638-63-42 • TRUNK LINE: 633-13-60; Loc/s: 208/1333

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education, through the Bids and Awards Committee intends to apply the sum of PHILIPPINE PESOS Two Hundred Sixty-Eight Million, Three Hundred Sixty-Four Thousand, Four Hundred Twenty-Nine (Php 268,364,429.00) being the approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to implement under the Government Procurement Policy Board, Category of Textbooks and Learners Titles and Teacher's Manuals (Title) for English Grades 1 to 6 in Public School Districts Nationwide. Bids received in excess of the ABC per lot or line item are rejected. Evaluation and award shall be on a per lot basis. Details are as follows:

Lot #	Items	Quantities	Approved Budget for Contract
1	English 1 T/L	1,236,206	47,798,131.00
	English 1 TM	34,724	
2	English 2 T/L	1,203,482	51,202,786.00
	English 2 TM	35,202	
3	English 3 T/L	976,206	50,413,554.00
	English 3 TM	35,328	
	English 3 TM	34,120	
4	English 4 T/L	854,206	57,858,128.00
	English 4 T/L	870,206	
	English 4 TM	35,648	
5	English 5 T/L	833,144	60,237,758.00
	English 5 T/L	833,144	
	English 5 TM	37,156	
	GRAND TOTAL	7,984,119	268,364,429.00

The Department of Education (DepED) now invites bids for the Printing (from Camera-ready Materials) and Delivery of Textbooks (Title) under Basic Ed's Textbook (TB/BE) for English—DepED 1 to Five Public School Districts Nationwide. The estimated Printing Period is thirty (30) days (excluding holidays, Sundays, and official Holidays). The Delivery Period for Printing & Delivery is July to September 2011.

Bidders should have completed, within five (5) years an contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible contract is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II. Instructions to Bidders (ITB).

Bidding will be conducted under open competitive bidding procedures as defined in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act."

A bidder who is a citizen, corporation, or association of a country whose laws or regulations grant reciprocal rights or privileges to citizens of the Philippines, and who is qualified to do public contract work in their country, are allowed to participate in this bidding, pursuant to RA 9184.

Bidding is restricted to Philippine nationals/citizens, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines pursuant to RA 9184, otherwise known as the Philippine Bidding Law.

Interested bidders should have been in operation for a minimum of three (3) years prior to the bid submission date. An important part of their business must be in the manufacturing of printed and bound materials, or as consolidators of educational materials.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from DepED's Procurement Service at telephone numbers: (02) 638-63-43 or 638-63-42 and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) or visit the department's website: www.deped.gov.ph.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders starting June 09, 2011 from the address below and upon the payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00). It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PHILGEPS) provided that Bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

DepED-BAC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on June 21, 2011, 10:00 a.m. at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, which shall be open to all interested parties.

Bids must be delivered to Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Ritad Lobby, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City on or before July 04, 2011 10:00 a.m. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 14.

Bid opening shall be on July 04, 2011, 10:00 a.m. at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.

DepED-BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:
Bids and Awards Committee
BAC 1 Chairperson
c/o Procurement Service
Room 307-308, 3rd Floor
Mabini Building, DepED Complex
Pasig City, Philippines
Tel. No.: 634-63-43 or 634-63-42
Fax No.: (632) 633-1643

(SGD.) FRANCISCO M. ISANES Jr.
Undersecretary & BAC 1 Chairperson

Setting up of games servers is 'doing business'

POINT OF LAW

Francis Lim

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has ruled that the setting up of game servers in the Philippines by a foreign corporation constitutes "doing business," which requires the foreign corporation to secure a license from the SEC.

The legal consequence of doing business in the Philippines without a license consists of criminal liability for violating the Corporation Code or, at least, depriving the foreign corporation from suing in the Philippines, although it can be sued before any courts or administrative tribunals.

Characterization test

There is no hard and fast rule in determining whether a certain foreign corporation is doing, transacting or engaging in business in the Philippines. The determination is done on a case-to-case basis.

The Supreme Court has, however, adopted the so-called "Mere Doing Business" test" as the yardstick in determining if a foreign corporation is to be "doing business" in the Philippines, to wit:

a) The foreign corporation is maintaining or continuing in the Philippines the body or substance of the business or enterprise for which it was organized or whether it has substantially retired from it and turned it over to another; and

b) The foreign corporation is engaged in activities which necessarily imply a continuity of commercial dealings and enterprise, and contemplates, in this context, the performance of acts or works or the exercise of some of the functions normally incidental to, and in progressive prosecution of, the purpose and object of its organization. (Mentholatum Co., Inc. v. Mangaliman, et al., G.R. No. 47701, 27 June 1941; E. Via Dainty Shoe., Ltd., v. CTC Manufacturing Industries, Inc. (G.R. No. 147905, 20 May 2005).

The foreign investments act has adopted, albeit in a more detailed manner, the foregoing standards (Section 3 (d), Republic Act No. 7042).

Setting up of game servers

The Office of the General Counsel of the SEC, in its Opinion No. 22-10, recently applied the Twin Doctrines to state that in ruling that the setting up of game servers in the Philippines by a foreign corporation is considered doing business.

Gamboni Co., Ltd., a Korean corporation, is engaged in, and was licensed to offer online interactive games accessible through the Internet to players anywhere in the world. In pursuit of its business, Gamboni was planning to set up game servers physically located in the Philippines.

The servers would be connected to the Internet through the facilities provided by eFUN Inc., a provider of co-location spaces and other computer and technical services for the proper functioning of servers.

With respect to the first requisite of the Twin Characterization Test, the SEC found that the setting up of game servers may be considered as maintaining or continuing in the Philippines the body or substance of the business.

The SEC stated that: "[although the setting up of servers does not involve the physical acts or transactions beyond the mere leasing of a specific portion of space in the Philippines to accommodate those servers, those servers shall act as necessary storage where the games software and related data are stored. In effect, Gamboni will use the servers to store various data relative to the games that it will advertise online, making it a vital component of Gamboni's online business."

With regard to the second requisite, the SEC stated that the servers will be in continuous operation while being physically present in the Philippines. The continued presence of these servers in the Philippines was construed by the SEC to mean that Gamboni is engaged in activities which necessarily imply a continuity of commercial dealings.

The SEC stated that "while there are no physical activities because the transactions appear to be processed and consummated in a virtual plane, the physical presence of these servers in the Philippines is essential in the perform of these online transactions."

The SEC also observed that the purchase of games online creates earnings and direct profits for Gamboni, which gamers are those accessed using the game servers located in the Philippines.

Consequently, the SEC opined that Gamboni, by setting up servers which will have continuous presence and operation in the Philippines, is considered as doing business, hence, therefore, must first obtain a license from the SEC.

Need to revisit the concept?

Without going into the issue of whether the opinion is correct, the SEC has effectively restricted the capability of our local companies to do business with foreign companies. A clear example is the case of any telecommunication companies with similar contract which, under the opinion, may not provide co-location services to foreign companies that do online business, unless these entities secure a license from the SEC. Of course, rather than going through the rigors of obtaining a license from our SEC, those foreign companies will just shy away from the Philippines and give their business to competing countries. Our local companies are thereby deprived of business opportunities from foreign countries and, in the process, the Philippines economy will lose millions (if not billions) of dollars of foreign remittances from this huge and increasing global business.

Another potential victim of the opinion is the business process outsourcing (BPO) industry. Foreign companies outsource a portion of their operations to Philippine based companies. Invariably, these operations are part of the "body or substance" of their business or at least normally incidental to, and in progressive prosecution of, their business. Given the way our BPO companies are normally set up, the foreign principals of our BPO companies should not be considered as doing business in the Philippines. However, there is no assurance our local courts and other regulatory agencies for allegedly doing business in the Philippines without a license, especially with the propensity of some lawyers to file harassment suits in the name of protecting their clients. If such happens (God forbid), the Philippines will be a less attractive investment destination for the BPO business.

In short, given modern-day developments in global business, the set of standards for determining doing business in the Philippines, a 1941 vintage, has become archaic.

Thus, there is a need to revisit these issues an overly strict view will adversely affect the competitiveness of the Philippines as a business destination.

(The author, former president and CEO of the Philippine Stock Exchange, is now the Co-Managing Partner and Head of the Corporate and Special Projects Department of Accralaw. He may be contacted through fslim@accralaw.com).

BATANGAS II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Antipolo del Norte, Lipa City

INVITATION TO BID

WHAT	:	Bidding for the Supply and Delivery of Rewinding Materials IFB 2011-010
WHEN	:	June 15, 2011 (Pre-Bidding Conference) 10:00 A.M. (SHARP)
WHERE	:	BATELEC II Main Office Basement Antipolo del Norte, Lipa City
Cost of Bid Documents	:	Php 3,000.00

For inquiries, Prospective Bidders may call PBAC Secretary, May Ann Grace P. Abogadas at (043) 756-0337 local 156.

(Sgd.) **RORYL D. MAGPARANGALAN**
Procurement, Bids and Awards Committee Chairperson

OBITUARIES

"Be ye not exact unto, O my soul, for the Lord has been good to me." – Psalm 116:7

YOUNG LING LIM

of Subic, Zambales
Proprietor of Subic Central Supermarket, Subic Bakeshop and Lumberhouse

Joined his Maker in his Grace on June 07, 2011 at the age of 90

His bereaved family, wife (F) Hospicia Caridio; sons-in-law (F) Rosito Caridio, (late) Dr. Rolando Caridio Sanang and Daniel Sinong; Daughter-in-law Marina L. Sinong, and Fidelia Tsinong, Daughter Princesita Sinong Uy; son-in-law Reynaldo Chiong Uy; Grandchildren Dr. Oscar Nathaniel L. Tsinong and Christine Sinong, Janelle Lynn L. Tsinong and Michael L. Sinong; Dr. Jacqueline Cecile Y. Uy, Ronald Christian F. Uy, Dr. Raul Christopher Y. Uy, Raymundo Charles Y. Uy; Dr. Lizzy Sinong and Dr. Annamonis Tsinong, Dr. Victor Sinong and Vincent Sinong; great-grandchildren Joshua Luke Tsinong and Mikell Sinong and adopted son Alfonso Pascual, other relatives and friends request your prayers for the repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe Makati City.

Interment shall be on Sunday June 12, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. at Manila Memorial Park, Dumarinas, Cavite.

Erik Jeffrey Y. Ty

of Quezon City

Born: June 13, 1967
Joined Jesus June 6, 2011

Funeral Home: June 7-9, 2011 at La Funeraria Paz, Aurora Avenue, Quezon City

Interment: June 10, 2011, 11am at Heritage Park, Bypass Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig

He is survived by his mother Rosie Te Ty (Nee Ng Suy);

Brothers, their spouses, and children:

1. Edward and Gloria Ty; with Ridzia and Rolamore
2. Edwin and Jannie Ty; with Isis, Michelle and Alexa

Sisters, their spouses, and children:

1. Ellen and Eric Chua Eap; with Jeremy, Jake and Jaclyn
2. Evelyn and Ambassio Ong; with Krystal, Kathryn, Khia and Adrian.

LORENZO ELIAS DE LEON SANEDRIN

Peacefully joined his Creator on June 4, 2011 at the age of 55.

His children, sons and daughters-in-law, grandchildren, great grandchild and relatives request the pious readers to join them in praying for his eternal repose.

His remains lie in state at #56 Saint Michael Subdivision, Tehang Road, Caranglaan, Dagupan City.

Interment will be on Saturday, June 11, 2011 at the Garden of Eden Memorial Park, Calasiao, Pangasinan, after the 9:00 a.m. mass at Calasiao Parish Church.

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CALL POEA

OBITUARIES

Adelaida "Deling" Monsalud Meneses

Died on June 7, 2011 at the age of 84 at the Makati Medical Center with her family by her side

Adelaida was born on December 17, 1926 in Sta. Zambrano. She married Marcelisno Meneses Jr. and lived the majority of their years together in Olongapo City, Zambales.

Adelaida was active in several organizations including the Soroptimist International and Catholic Women's League.

She is survived by her loving daughter and son-in-law, Michaelina and Patrick Antonio, by her grandchildren, Tony, Anna and JR and his wife, Joan, by her great grandchildren, Carissa, David, Mandy and Paddy, and by her siblings.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Marcelisno Meneses, Jr. and by her son, Antonio "Sonny" Meneses.

A wake will be held at Christ The King Church (Chapel A and B), Green Meadows, Quezon City from June 8-12, 2011. Interment will be held on Sunday, June 12, 2011 after the 11:00 a.m. mass.

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord,
And let perpetual Light shine upon her.
May her soul
And the souls of all the faithful departed
Through the mercy of God
Rest in peace.
Amen.

BUSINESS

Consumer confidence level in Q2 still low

By Ramon W Dantoso

LOOK. CONSUMER confidence remained low in the second quarter despite expectations of a better harvest and the availability of more jobs compared to last year, results of the latest household survey by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed.

The overall consumer confidence index declined by one index point to -26.3 percent versus the index a quarter ago. Optimism among households outside the National Capital Region prevented a sharper decline in the index for the period, the BSP's data showed.

A negative index indicates that pessimists outnumber optimists, which the index showing the difference between respondents with a positive view and those with a negative view.

"The current quarter's outlook stemmed from the counterbalancing of those respondents who reported higher family incomes with those that said they were negatively affected by the high rate of petroleum products and higher prices of goods and services", BSP director Rosalia B. Guerrero said in a briefing.

"This outlook mirrored the steady sentiment of consumers in Germany, France and New Zealand," Guerrero said.

She said each "broadly steady" sentiment would carry over to the new three months, although consumers were more bullish about the 12 months ahead.

The BSP's consumer poll covers households' outlook on three indicators—the country's economic condition, family's financial situation and family income.

Guerrero said the consumer outlook was mixed, as sentiment on family finances and family income improved while that on the economic condition weakened.

"More respondents said they anticipate additional [income due to good harvest and] more jobs available in the second quarter," she said.

"However, the continued increase in the prices of commodities dampened the sentiment on the country's economy," she added.

LIFESTYLE Food

RACKS
FLAME GRILLED • FALLS OFF THE BONE
DELIVERS

Pork and 'pusit'—an enticing, flavorful pairing

'The 'adobo' becomes crunchier when reheated in the pan—not microwave—with a bit of oil'

ANA Mendoza shows off her Pork and Squid Adobo.

By Vergie Bags-Reyes

FOR ALMOST a year now, Ana Mendoza's pork and squid adobo has been her kitchen assurance, never failing to stimulate her family's appetite.

We usually enjoy the combination of chicken and pork adobo, but the partnership of pork and squid is surprisingly more enticing, the tenderer and flavorful. Yes, with each bite, a different experience.

The sharp sourness and saltiness of pork-squid adobo explode in the mouth. After a few bites, it soon goes tangier and spicier with the inclusion of chili, and the fusion of natural pork oil and squid ink offers lip-smacking goodness to the concoction.

"I learned this pork-squid recipe from a friend, chef Elma Domingo of Just Kla," says Mendoza. "We were in Baguio City last year for a meeting and on a lazy afternoon, he cooked it for us. It was so good. I had several servings of rice because the sauce is already a ritual by itself."

ADOBO CORNER

Domingo is a native of Dagupo, Nueva Ecija.

"I asked him to teach me the recipe. When I got home, I shared it with my family, and since then we always have pork-squid adobo at home," says Mendoza, a freelance public relations consultant. She used to work for Chef Heinzelin, Hotel Reno-

MORE C2

'Roti prata,' mixed 'satay,' 'nasi goreng,' 'char kway teow'—the best hawker-style dishes in Manila

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

Makan-Makan, Hotel H2O's restaurant located at Manila Ocean Park, is your best bet

MAHAN'S Chef John Erb tossing food

LO-OH Pancit on Room

THE MEDIA quite a bit in my life and for me to be stumped and not know where to start meeting my table is a rare occurrence.

This is one of those moments when what I've experienced was too rich, too visually exhilarating that I fear words will fail about it.

I hold a soft spot for Makan-Makan, Hotel H2O's restaurant in Manila Ocean Park. Even before the park and hotel could open, one of its directors, lawyer Gene Go, invited me for coffee. I was with my opinion about a hawker-style outlet in the hotel.

It's the first of its kind in the country, where the most popular hawker dishes from all over Asia are prepared in their authentic style before your eyes.

Understandably, it took me three years before I could sample the real offerings of Makan.

I opted for roti prata (flat bread with curry dipping sauce), mixed satay, nasi goreng (fried rice) and char kway teow (stir-fried noodles). I never thought in my wildest dreams I would taste food like this in Manila.

The wait was perfectly done, and the curry flush and rich. The satay was aromatic, perfectly seasoned and spiced, the peanut sauce chunky and delicious. Well-blended coriander and onions give achar and lengkuk, I could have swum I was in it to describe.

The kway teow was a solid (somebody), with nice burnt wok taste. Whatever was behind the preparation of these dishes is a genius.

I thought the cook was Malay, Singaporean or Indonesian. He turned out to be Chef John Erb, a Filipino.

Trained by the Singaporean team that came to Manila before Makan's opening, Erb prepares food that could be almost par than that of hawker cooks. Everyone can be taught, but to make these dishes as he does is a gift from the Divine.

Oceanarium

After lunch, I proceeded to the aquarium to check out venues for my son Diego's 7th birthday. I was panicking because my son requested for a hawa ing party only to look out in the eye a week before to say I want my party at Ocean Park, Manila!

Since it's his 7th, I had to try to give him the party he wanted. Luckily, the venue was available and the staff I met was highly efficient, making the party preparation a cinch for me.

I opted for the Lo oh function room, where you could view part of the 217,000-gallon tank filled with 1,483 pieces of fish from 92 species of marine life and hawker-style buffet—roti prata, mixed satay, nasi goreng, Hainanese chap chap soup and cha kuo teow. For dessert, we had iced kachang. For the kids—spaghetti and chicken.

On the day of the event, I was pleasantly surprised to see they more the extra mile. On one side of the buffet spread stood Chef John, flipping roti dough on the spot, cooking it fresh. In the amusement of the guests.

His demo area was decked with hawker implements—Aaw'on filled with snippets of information about hawker food, authentic coat, and old time tarbo and wrinkled pail, which the nattering magistalee carried around.

The food, aside from being excellent, turned out to be a feast for the senses and an interactive learning experience. At 1:30, the entertainers Journey began. The start of the park included the kids led from behind by hawker—what a treat!) and company feeding, plus a tour of the jelly tanks.

After the tour, the guests headed back to Lo oh for a live 15-minute cooking show. My son was so thrilled to see four pretty marinade bedding out a banner that read "Happy Birthday Diego!"

Eco-pledge

This was immediately followed by the all-new bird show, which is in the process of being pre-loved. The other surprise didn't want to share the ball! Then the kids were taught the value of conservation and were asked to make a pledge to Mother Earth by stamping their hand prints on a "Serve the World" banner.

Then I took, we also witnessed drivers literally handfed the fish, and even caught a glimpse of park guests pulled as sustenance! The best activity was the sea lion show at 4:30 p.m.

Everything was perfect last Sunday. When it was all over, I asked Diego: Hats happy are you, from 1-10?

He said: Five thousand, times!

Indeed, what kid wouldn't be happy with a party like that?

Call 5677777, look for Lesley Gabel, MOP's gated services manager at Marivic Guerrero, Hotel H2O's banquet sales and events officer.

These are the ladies I hogged, literally, to give the best rates possible. They can package everything for you (food, shows, activities and can even work on a budget. According to them, what's most important is that people get to see and enjoy the park.

Check out Hotel H2O.com, for some of the best designed hay ripaw rooms I've ever seen. It's on a budget. According to them, what's most important is that people get to see and enjoy the park.

Check out Hotel H2O.com, for some of the best designed hay ripaw rooms I've ever seen. It's on a budget. According to them, what's most important is that people get to see and enjoy the park.

For my one-cooking class schedule, call 0917.5167081, 8908-2372240, 4008496, 8280259.

E-mail reggie@inquirer.com.ph

Pork and 'pusit'—an enticing, flavorful pairing

From page C1

PORK and Pusit Adobo

Mendoza buys the squid from farmer's market in Cubao, QC. She cleans the squid by pulling out the eyes, tentacles, innards and transparent ribs, yet making sure the black ink is carefully set aside and does not burst, as it will give bitter taste.

Pork and squid are first cooked in separate, not mixed, pepper and tomatoes, then sauteed in onions, garlic and chili. This process unlocks a range of flavors to perk up the taste buds.

Mendoza's adobo is cooked with the ink, but she says you can opt not to include it if you don't want your adobo too dark. When cooked, squid is enhanced in size, so hence get medium-size ones.

Passion

Mendoza, a graduate of Business Management at St. Paul's College Manila, has a passion for good food.

"Though I never took a culinary course, I understand food. I love food. Cooking came naturally to me because I simply love to eat," she claims.

She loves cooking as much as she enjoys feeding her friends and family with her wide range of specialties... Oriental, Spanish, Italian and Filipino.

So Banana, she developed the skill as a tender age. When she was eight, her mom enrolled her at Ludivine Empire Le Cordon Bleu, where she learned the basics of cooking. She also had classes with Sylvia Reynoso for baking. And, at a young age, she knew how to use her knives from.

She would make chicken pie and sell them to classmates and relatives. During Christmas, her mom would bake pound cake as giveaways, while she'd bake her own giveaways such as black forest and brownies. In high school, instead of focusing on homework, she was preoccupied with recipes.

"I hardly listened to my teachers; all the things in my mind then were recipes. I wanted to make almond flour, brownies, gourmet sandwiches or fondue," she recalls.

Mendoza keeps a collection of cookbooks and makes variations if she finds the recipe bland or boring. She experiments with different herbs and spices to put color to the recipes.

Her dream is to put up her own modest restaurant in Tagaytay, where she could showcase her comfort food—Adobo sang, cullos, lengua, paella, etc.

Pork and Pusit Adobo

For adobo mixture
1 k pork belly
1 k fresh pusit, cleaned and sliced
2 pcs bay leaves, sliced
1 medium onion
2 whole garlic, chopped
3 tbsp finger chili, chopped
½ cups vinegar
½ cup soya sauce
1 pc laurel
½ tsp ground pepper
2½ water
For sauce
1 pc whole garlic
1 pc medium onion
¼ cooking oil

Chop pork belly, adobo cut, and wash thoroughly. Put water in a pot, add pork, tomatoes, garlic, onions, vinegar, soy sauce, ground pepper and laurel. Cover and leave to boil. When liquid has reduced to one-fourth and pork is tender, add sliced squid and squid ink. Allow to boil for a few minutes and remove from fire. Set aside.

In a separate pan, sauté garlic and onions in oil, then add precooked pork and squid adobo. Add finger chili, then cook for another five to 10 minutes. Take out from fire and transfer in serving plate. Serves five people. Serve hot with rice.

E-mail the author at chupa@inquirer.com.ph

Potatoes so good at Burgers and US Fries Festival 2!

Boulevard Diner. This week's potato attractions are Star Spuds, new-comer fried hash browns shaped like a star, and Cheddar Charles, mini-sisters fried Cheddar-stuffed spuds with chipotle mayo on the side.

Now in its second year, the United States Potato Board's Burgers and US Fries Festival 2 brings you delicious new ways to enjoy your favorite potatoes.

Five burger specialists concocted potato dishes so good you'll wish they will be still available long after the Festival is over (March 15 – June 15, 2011). What's best, they've made with US Frozen Potatoes for that perfect appearance, taste, and texture. Try them all!

Brothers Burger. Two designer burgers make their debut at this year's BFF: Stare Burger served with US basket weave fries enhanced with a spicy mixture of basil, chili flakes, garlic and ginger and the saucy Santa Fe Burger served with Buffalo Wings-flavored US basket weave fries.

Big Better Burgers. New crunchy herb brown and munchers golden potato balls with a yummy cheese filling. Best enjoyed with BBB's bestselling Bahaliaglorious Burger, Mushroom Lava, and the all-time favorite Cheeseburger.

Delft Burger. You'll find it hard to resist the baked potato halves topped with tuna tuna and cheese, and herby fries – round, crisp-on-the-outside soft-on-the-inside potatoes with a happy face and honey mustard dip. They also serve curly fries and kare-kare from the US.

The Royal Thing Diner. Here, the burgers and ribs are glazed with a signature sauce made with the popular soft drink. But wait till you taste their BFF offerings: potato wedges complemented with a ginger-lychee dip, and four potato halves made flavorful with Cheddar cheese, bacon, and a seasoning mixed with light n' Chick orange drink.

For more information on US Frozen Potatoes, visit the United States Potato Board (USPB) website www.uspotatoboard.org/philippines or email request@uspotatoboard.org

Vietnamese cuisine that's more than just 'pho' (rice noodles)

'Noodles are like hamburgers in Vietnam,' says Aqualenox owner-chef Danny Vu

By Margo G. Enriquez
Contributor

WHILE TESTIMONIES abound from Vietnamese and his British-Filipina partner Natasha Reyes-Mohr about dining in a local Vietnamese restaurant chain, they realized their dishes were laced with MSG (monosodium glutamate) and lard, and the broth was obviously made from a commercial soup powder.

The couple knew they could produce Vietnamese cuisine of better, more authentic quality. So is no stranger to the restaurant scene. He refounded the famous Thanh Long restaurant in San Francisco, famished by the family of his ex-wife. Till today, it is Chinese for its luscious crabs and is patronized by many Filipinos.

The enterprising Mohr established Aqualenox, originally a restaurant bar whose name was derived from the soothing snowflake in its decor. The restaurant's name is to change the public perception that Vietnamese food is just pho or rice noodle soup.

Aqualenox Vietnamese Kitchen, which recently underwent a facelift, focuses on Vietnamese seafood fused with spices ranging from 1986 to PINO. Inspired by Thanh Long's success, its shoppers are the do-the-fusel, self-cooks cooked-to-perfect set.

"People can enjoy the crabs without getting their hands messy," says Mohr.

BESTSELLER: Chef Danny's garlicky crabs

NATASHA Mohr and chef Danny Vu

SEAFOOD RICE NOODLE SOUP. Many dishes are fragrant with lemongrass, mint and basil, are steamed and grilled, and tic's a sign to a minimum. The chili flavors are more sweet than spicy-ripe. Bagoong-ess Prawns

Paint flavors

Vietnamese food is, for the most part, cold-less, with faint flavors, and while some dishes are served in a sweet-sour caramel sauce, others are just done in a light marinade. The bowls of light dipping sauces, usually a blend of fish sauce, fish sauce, chopped peanuts and chile vinegar, growth nearly every dish.

Most of the dishes mix pork, beef, chicken and shrimp in fine, crisp noodles or soup noodles. Diners can pair in hot chili pastes or relishes to agree with their taste buds. There's some with lucidity of shredded lettuce and sprigs of basil and cilantro, or garden-pickled herbs.

"People are like hamburgers in Vietnam," says Vu, referring to the pho. So with the noodle soups are found in every corner of Vietnam. Fish sauce is favored more than salt, and is used in the marinades. However, Aqualenox's fish sauce has been tempered to suit the local climate.

The essential Vietnamese note is characterized by its preference for complementary sweet and sour, cooked and raw, hot and cool, crispy and smooth. The flavors are never explicit yet understood.

As Tu explains, "The taste of broth is always subtle. It's not pungent. It it's not evident right. Then the dish is not available. The noodles must be tasty, the meat is always tender, and the fresh herbs help to build up the flavors. We make sure the bean sprouts are fat and edible. We don't put processed ingredients."

While other restaurants serving by using lard, Tu prefers vegetable oil and chicks in the MSG for fresh herbs. The rice paper for the rolls is made daily.

"We don't get wrap the rolls and store in the fridge, then prepare it very delicious. When it is, the moisture in the fridge, it hardens," he says.

Vu invites diners to experience the diversity of Vietnamese cuisine. People have been raving over the signature dishes: the chicken-tasting Goi Ga'ten, fresh, translucent rice rolls with pre-sauced flavors of shrimps and pork over a blanket of lettuce and vermicelli noodles; the tasty pomelo salad; Chan Tam, minced prawns wrapped in sugarcane and pounded with herbs; lettuce and noodles; Canh Ga Chien Sa Ta, fried chicken lollipops with jolts of garlic and seafloor; and the Indochine Banh Tieu, a crepe turned yellow with turmeric, filled with layers of chicken, shrimp, shiitake mushrooms, crunchy onions and bean sprouts.

The cold vermicelli bowl is another healthy dish which is served like a salad bowl of glass noodles laden with lettuce, cucumber, julienne carrots or daikon, chicken, shrimps and peanuts with sweet sour or dipping sauce.

Innovations

The restaurant offers innovations such as the fun of sizzling rice plates. Simple and gratifying, the sizzlight or sizzle rice is steamed with grilled chicken, pork belly or shrimp and topped with seal. Stir-related crispy shallots.

An example of close cooking, the beef stew is made from freshly delivered meat and seared for four hours daily. Its other dishes such as the Bo Luc Lac or US Tenderloin Beef, Vu has to import some meat for Birds the local meat isn't lean with not enough marble. He uses the Kansas Beef for its juicy-tender. On meat it's red wine to tenderize it and adds the Vietnamese touch of fish and sauce with rosemary, red cashew seeds and banana. The Vietnamese flair is prepared the French way, with low-fat milk, butter, the jiggly texture.

The meal is capped with strong Vietnamese coffee. It's like having two shots of espresso with condensed milk dripped into the cup.

For Vu and Mohr, Aqualenox is the venue to spread the word about Vietnamese food. Vu hopes to nurtured, delicate, clean mingling of flavors will appeal to the lard and expat customers hankering for healthy light cooking.

Aqualenox is located at 800 Arnaiz Ave., Makati, tel. 8943580, and Mealson Square Mall, Dragon Ave., Greenhills, tel. 4736473.

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Light Vietnamese food, heavy A-1 'bistro' fare

THE VIETNAMESE culinary invasion continues, while the tag "bistro" has found its way in various dining entries in the city. Here are two representative entries.

Zao Vietnamese Bistro

Unit 2 C, 16 Sevenfox, Bonifacio High Street, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, tel. 4042630

RATING INDEX

Poor

Good

Excellent

The Quiet Diner

Bistro at a glance

The walls, because you'd hardly have the space to move in and out.

Service...Orders come fast from the kitchen.

Staff...They greet diners upon entering, present menu, bidden and take orders. But they are not very informative. Inadvertently, without guidance, we ordered two dishes with noodles!

Suggested menu...Because one always wants the specialties of the house, take note of those labelled "Zao." Most of the dishes combine the same elements like pork, beef and chicken, vegetables and herbs. Start with the fresh rolls with dipping sauce. Eat the soup with flat noodles, served with two sauces, hoisin and chili. The Zao Bowl has Vermicelli serving as base for bite-size pieces of sandwiches beef, oxtail, roasted chicken and spring rolls. The Zao Platter contains, again, chicken, pork and beef combination in barbecue marinade. Then are all rather light, so be sure you still have room for a dessert of Jasmine Flan Pudding with Tea.

Service charge is added to the bill, which can average P500 per diner. Senior cards are honored.

Rating

Sala Bistro...G/G, Greenbelt 3, Makati City, tel. 7294888

A "bistro" must mean a small, cozy place that served comfort food. Sala Bistro has gone a step further by offering specialty dishes that are A-1 in flavor, accompanied by excellent service.

Dining area...Airy dramatic, predominantly black interiors. There is a certain serenity in this place. One's conversation does not carry to the next table.

Service...Very welcoming, and guests are immediately shown to a table, whether previously reserved or not.

Staff...In black outfits, they hand the menu over with a smile. They know what they serve, making it easier for the guest to choose.

Suggested menu...We did not go for appetizers, but instead savored the bread served with a dip. The Seared Lamb was perfect, the meat literally falling off the bone, which was what made it look you big for our equally big appetite. The Beef Bistro had its name for a reason. Tender, juicy and flavorful, accompanied by the best way to enjoy the succulent combination. The perfect all the shrimps and tails all others from their shells, then savored each bite with one any hands. Equivalent Dishes are bankers for dessert, the main course would be a very satisfying meal.

Service charge is added to the bill. The extra honors senior citizen cards.

Rating

GARFIELD

A. LIPPA

PUGAD BARDY

DICK TRACY

LOVEHOOTS

BABY BLUES

RIKO MACHINE

SEN

MUTTS

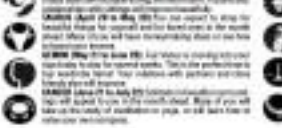
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

DUSTIN

TULDOS

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE



CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

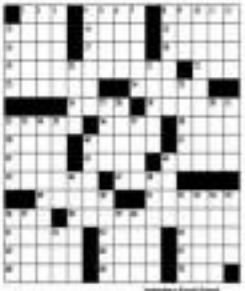
Fill the grid so that each row, column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more programs or www.sudoku.com

Concepts Sudoku — By Dave Green

	1			8			6	
			7		5			
		6				2		
2	9						3	5
7				9				4
3	6						9	1
		8				1		
			6		3			
	3			7			5	

Difficulty Level ★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Special Father's Day dishes

DINING OUT

ZEN JUNE 18, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Ground Floor. Indulge in the best of Thai cuisine at Zen's Father's Day Lunch Buffet. Choose from a wide selection of Thai delicacies, including Tom Yum Goong, Pad Thai Goong, Green Curry Chicken, Massaman Curry Beef, Grilled Seafood, Thai Fried Rice, Thai Noodles, Thai Desserts and more. Enjoy unlimited servings of your favorite Thai dishes for only P1,288 per person. Call 8107777 ext. 7777 for reservations.

Pork Belly with Kimchi

Fontebon, Diamond Hotel's Yorkstreet has an all-you-can-eat lunch buffet every Saturday and Sunday — Triple Grain Feast.

Featured appetizers include Fried Tofu with Tempura Sauce and Fresh Garden Leaf Salad. Dishes include Mixed Seafood Rice and Yakisoba.

Ready-to-grill seafood dishes will be available: Spanish Eel, Blue Marlin, Squid and White Shrimp.

Across the hall, the Teppanyaki area offers premium beef and other meat variants specially cooked and prepared right before your eyes. Dishes include US Rib Eye Angus, US Striploin, Garlic Fried Rice, Spicy Chicken Breast and Pork Belly with Kimchi.

You may add unlimited Wagyu (US Beef Striploin or Chilean Seabass or Scallop (US Barbushire to your set-all you can package by adding only P500/set for each item in Triple Grain Feast's abundant price.

The Triple Grain Feast is served from 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. for only P2,888 net per person. For inquiries and reservations, call 3263888. Visit www.diamondhotel.com.

Sizzling Bulalo Steak

CJ Classic Cuisine launches two promos in celebration of Independence Day and Father's Day. CJ celebrates Philippine independence by lowering the "Mak-Bulalo as CJ" promo. For only P812, the restaurant is serving set menu selections featuring some of their best-selling food dishes for Set A: Pandan Rice, Sizzling Bulalo Steak, Supper Mixto; Set B: Pandan Rice, Bulalo, Sweet as Tuba; Set C: Pandan Rice, Kare-Kareng Baka, Lumpiang Hubad; Set D: Pako Pandesal, Pakol Mami, Cache Bao. This offer is ongoing until June 19.

Meanwhile, CJ Classic Cuisine in partnership with the Center for Culinary Arts (CCA, Manila) is offering a special cooking session dessert to go with the Father's Day set meal.

Chef Shirin Balsaloni of CJ chose some of their best and most popular food items for the father's Day set meal which include Lumpiang Hubad, Sinigang na Tiyan ng Bangus, Mushroom Cube, Bacon and Garlic Rice.

The special dessert is the Roasted Coconut Choky Pudding with Chocolate sauce de Manila. The Father's Day set meal is available from 10-30 J. mall/market/ngcafeteria@yahoo.com.

Cantonese dishes

On Father's Day, Manila Intercontinental is offering a grand feast for the whole clan. Call dad indulge in the most extensive buffet of international and local cuisine at the Café Ilang-Ilang. Lunch and dinner buffet is offered for only P1,888+ per person with free-flowing fruit juices.

If dad is craving for Cantonese dishes, head him to the Mandarin Palace. Lunch and dinner buffet is offered at P1,888+ per person. Father's Day treat at Café Ilang-Ilang and Mandarin Palace is offered on June 19 only. For reservations, call 8213888.

(Clockwise) Bamboo Bata Hosang by Bad Crab is now open. It offers Mixed Seafood Sate, Lumpia Semarang (Fried Spring Roll stuffed with bamboo shoots), Korean Buffalo Wings, John Bamboo Chili Prawns, Beef Rendang (beef in spicy coconut milk), among others. John Bamboo is at Solmed Mansi, Sct. Rosa, Laguna (tel. 49/9042).

FRESHLY GRILLED ITEMS

Eastwood Richmonde Hotel's Eastwood Cafe features Monday Madness Dinner available all Mondays of June, 5-10 p.m., for only P588 net. For inquiries and reservations, call 9107777. Eastwood Cafe is located at Eastwood Richmonde Hotel, 10 Orchard Road, Eastwood City, Bagumbayan, Quezon City.

BAILEY'S Mousse Torte by Cravings

Burger King and Heinz

Burger King, America's favorite burger, is now made even more delicious with Heinz Tomato Ketchup.

Heinz Tomato Ketchup brings out the big taste of burgers and any meat. It has that distinct sweet, sour and spicy flavor. It has no artificial flavor and color, and no preservatives. The natural tomato flavor and deep red color of Heinz Tomato Ketchup comes from 100 percent real tomatoes.

Bite into Whopper, juicy flame-broiled beef patty topped with red tomatoes, crisp lettuce, rich tomato ketchup, creamy mayo, crunchy pickles and onions on a toasted sesame seed bun.

To have Burger King's all-time favorite burger is in single, double or with cheese, along with fries and some rings for that well-rounded meal. And, the finishing touch—a generous extra helping of Heinz Tomato Ketchup. Visit www.heinzketchup.com.

CJ CLASSIC Cuisine's Lumpiang Hubad

KUSI'S KARE-KARE

Kusi (G/F, The Venice Piazza, McKinley Hill, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City; tel. 4364994) offers an all-time favorite Filipino dish, Kare-kare. This gourmet recipe of ox tripe and tail is covered in thick, decadent peanut sauce with banana blossoms, eggplant, Chinese cabbage and string beans.

CRUSTASIA Asian flavors offer The Grand Jasmine Samplex, Balinese Chili Crab, Beef Samosa, Kung Pao Chicken, Satay Meat Sampler, Shanghai Fried Dumpling, among others. Crustasia Asian flavors also accepts catering. Crustasia branches are in Basement Power Plant Mall, Makati City; tel. 7283163; and Shangri-La Plaza Mall; tel. 9106896.

HAM AND CHEESE

Pan Pacific Manila's Grab and Go Sandwiches are made with the freshest ingredients. Grab and Go sandwiches are available in three varieties—Chunky Chicken sandwich, Smoked Salmon sandwich, Ham and Cheese sandwich. Grab and Go sandwiches are available daily at the Lobby Lounge for only P250 net. Call 5108788.

Spaghetti al Garlic Extravaganza, 3 Platters of Nachos for P1,888, complete with free Banana Coffee Jelly for all dads.

BANANA COFFEE JELLY

Abreo Barbecue Ilonggo's dedicate special treat. For every P1,000 single receipt purchase, all dads in the group will receive Abreo Barbecue's newest dessert, Banana Coffee Jelly, for free. Also try its meal combo: 1 Bandera Chicken Barbecue Meal, 1 Grilled Bangus Belly Meal, 1 Two-piece Pork Barbecue Meal, 1 Grilled Pusit Meal, + Blue of Pandi Combo for P1,888, complete with free Banana Coffee Jelly for all dads.

Low-fat, low-calorie, low-sugar—and all coffee

SKINNY VANILLA

SKINNY BEST Coffee introduces its new concoction, Skinny Vanilla.

Whether to beat hello, blended or sweet, Skinny Vanilla has Nestlé's best signature Full-Flavored Instant Coffee, but without the guilt. It is low in calorie, fat and sugar, and designed to be enjoyed without the usual fruity add-on flavorings.

SBC brand ambassadors Mikael Daez, Patricia Javier and JC Tiuseco love the Skinny Vanilla.

"It makes me up, marites and cuddles me just the way I want," says Daez, a student and fresh graduate of Ateneo de Manila University.

"It's fancy but not fancy," says Javier, a Disney Channel Asia-based model who appeared in various local fashion events and editorials. "I drink every day without addiction."

Tiuseco, the first Pinoy "Survivor" winner, says: "It looks sinful but it's actually not. That's why I always look forward to Nestlé's best-tasting yet smooth coffee blend. It's a no-brainer your mouth over."

Grab a Skinny Vanilla cup at Nestlé's Best Branches located in Makati City (Greenbelt 3, Valero, Paseo Salcedo, Makati Medical Center), Taguig City (Bonifacio High School), Manila (Metropolitan Hospital, Greggio, Sto. Rosario), Quezon City (Trinoma Mall, Backgammon), San Juan City (Cardinal Santos Hospital), Pasig City (SM Megamall B), Pasay City (SM Mall of Asia), South Area (Festival Mall, Nala Terminal 1, Cebu), BLISS, Cebu City (The Terminal).

Visit www.nestlebest.com.ph.

Seminar on food styling and photography

A FOOD styling and photography class will be held on June 26, 9 a.m.-12 noon, at Jo Bello's studio, Annapolis Street, Greenhills. Sponsor Chef Gardenia Bautista's Class will cover beverages, milkshake, linseed and cappuccino coffee, Asian fusion, Jo Bello Noodle Lunchbox 10 students only. Call or text Pinoy Tambis Centre at 0917-6208818.

'Stick To June' in Araneta

Mr. Pilipinas Marketers on June 12 will be at the landmark of Araneta Center's "Stick To June" Slap sticker bag campaign. To be stocked with early morning at the Grand Slam of the Slap Dance. All users that will beat the "Stick To June" sticker-self be entitled to free parking coupons that entitle on free parking around the Araneta Center until July 31.

Among the activities lined up—the "Most Wacky Slap Buyer" exhibits at Farmers Plaza, Gateway and Ali Mall's Activity Center. The winners of the national hunt's 100th birthday celebration, 2010-2011 Centenarian Lord-making contest with the theme of how Filipinos the slap, a T-shirt design contest and a "Saga of the Revolution" exhibit in coordination with the National Historical Institute. There will be a grand parade of colors, to be participated in by the marching bands, plus a special Illuminated exhibition.

Cooking effortlessly like kung fu

For his Manila visit, celebrity chef Sam Leong, who introduced single-served Chinese dishes, would like to experience more than just earthquakes

FILES Priscia

TOMYKeo

CHEF SAM Leong held a clinic at Makati Shangri-La recently where he was host to a competition, and first met the next day. Sen has been to but visited Manila before. What he remembered of his 2004 visit was the earthquake. But worked his food in the evening. But what I remember was the crisp fried prawn in wasabi mayonnaise with mango salsa which he did effortlessly for the cooking demo.

"You get a sense of the adventure of a kung fu experient," avers Jolie Wong in the Online of Malaysia.

He still looks as young as he did then (though he is now 50), and still sporting a diamond earring. He said that he has now Manila visit, he would like to experience more than just earthquakes.

That first time he was here, it was bewildering to imagine how the young chef was director of the Tung Lok group of restaurants in Singapore which consisted of some 20 outlets. Just opening one seems hard enough, but 2007 Heritage (a subsidiary according to conservative Chinese cuisine) was acclaimed as the Chinese restaurant of the Year Awards Hotel, Jiang Nan Chun, where he introduced single-served Chinese dishes, a radical approach at the time.

Today that routine by rooms, individually placed servers for Chinese food, is no longer a novelty. But Leong said that at the time, he thought of practical solutions to dining problems. Businessmen need to finish lunch quickly and also time pressed, which usually translates to a meeting, couples want to "order for three" – family for a group of three.

Aside from changing the Chinese way of eating, Leong said he also wanted to be a different Chinese chef, who's usually holed in the kitchen. He wanted to be like Western chefs, like Alain Ducasse, who's seen around the dining room and

Falling hair could lead to thinning or at the very worst, baldness. If you're experiencing falling hair, don't think it ends there. Falling hair can turn into something more serious in just a short time. Hair can feel disappear if you don't do anything about it. Get to the root of the problem, get professional help from Svenson – the leading and trusted hairloss and scalp center in the Philippines. For excess loss of hair, Svenson offers ULTRA HAIR REINFORCER, which deep-cleans the scalp, strengthens hair at the roots, controls hair fall, and stimulates hair growth. Hair becomes healthier, thicker, shinier, and more lush.

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Filipino chefs conquer trade show in Hong Kong

THE BATED morning and superlative panel off. The combined efforts of the Department Culinary Art (Official Global Shangri-La Hotel), yielded seven medals out of 10 categories at the recently concluded Hotel Asia at the Hong Kong Convention.

The team chefs, it was their first time to join an international competition and winning at first try is worth flaunting.

Chef Michael Parayno is one of those chefs who participated. Chef Michael said he was not intimidated by the other chefs at all for the judges made him a little nervous. "They are critiquing your work so it's understandable to be on edge," he said.

The other team members include chef Annie Florida, chef Jose Carlo Tuaz, chef Annette Mesa, and chef Avery Aviso. The Members, chef Jose Mari Medina, chef Leonard Lalmas, chef Rommel Gabriel, and chef Agustin Lindberg.

Last year, the Philippine team also bagged 11 medals at the Food and Hotel Asia Culinary Challenge in Singapore.

Mr Rolfes, Team Philippines bagged seven medals out of ten categories, seven medals for Vin Chaine Bouche, Awards (10 Organic Chicken) and Shanghai (Asian Bouche) and Awards for Spicy Chicken, Asian Bouche, Wedding Cake, and Restaurant categories, respectively. Attendant of the successful delegation were team manager Paolo Guevarra, head coach Chef Rolfes Aurin and Assist Manuel of Luis Dail's.

Established in 1907 and built financially, Rolfes is Asia's leading food and beverage publishers which brings together 1,000 exhibiting companies and 50,000 professional trade buyers all over the world.

The Philippine Team is under the sponsorship of the Philippine Airlines (PAL), the biggest airline in the country. Magnolia, Ajinomoto, Global Seasonings and Fashion Chefs. Mineral Corporation with technical partner Metro Pacific Investments Inc. also actively participating in and dominating in food competitions like the Philippine Food Exposition and excelling in Philippine Culinary Cup. Rolfes's industrial relations and global cultural promotions aims to provide solid foundation in hotel service, restaurant and culinary arts education as well as travel and tourism service institutions in the world. For more info on Rolfes, http://www.rolfes.com.ph.

The best places to eat in Vancouver

Vietnamese, Japanese, Thai, even Jollibee—they're all here

AFTER SINGAPORE, I headed to Vancouver, Canada, to attend my son Aeron's high school graduation. On the plane, my wife Teresa and I were already planning the restaurants to visit in Vancouver.

Tentative fill was on the list, since it has the best Malaysian/Singaporean cuisine on Canada's of the North Shore. It's also famous its Silver Dragon restaurant, which we've been told. And, of course, we'd go to for Vietnamese food, Song Huong in Hastings St., Vancouver.

On my first day, I drove to Kino, where I had Gomez, a Japanese appetizer of spinach in peanut sauce and grilled beef rolled in rice with a nice teriyaki sauce, a rainbow roll made of California roll made with Japanese mayo and topped with a mix of tuna, unagi, salmon and mackerel. Light and satisfying.

The evening we started, we went to a Japanese noodle house called Ramenba in Robson. In Canada, I've told, it is famous for three days. The noodles are cooked to order. On the cold we extremely tender, delicious and tasty the seafood chowder.

Spicy broth

At Boneyard Grill, we had the usual BBQ Gaeng, Indian style: Chat Que Tears, and our favorite, crispy soft shell crabs coated in garlic and pepper in the Vietnamese style Song Huong, we had pho of rare thin slices of sirloin beef over piping hot spicy broth, some fresh vegetable with soft pork and prawn spring rolls, and delicious spicy clams, shredded banana blossom and Vietnamese dipping, a version of our lugaw/bulanon.

Among all the pho I have tried, this had to be the best. The place is always packed with Vietnamese nationals. This is what we mean about "authenticity."

A few days afterward, we drove to Seattle to do a little shopping. We did most of this in Seattle Center Mall in Bellevue, Washington. Here, I stopped at Ben & Jerry's and asked the cashier the store's most reliable chocolate. She said nothing, just got a cup, opened a can of dark chocolate and gave it to me. While I tasted it, she said, "Those taste therapy."

My guess! The best tasting chocolate ice cream I have ever had! It will make your knees, edge and hop with glee—dark chocolate with morsels of solid Belgium. Sinful!

In the mall, too, there is a Pinoy taste that lets Jollibee, Chowking, Tokyo Tokyo and a grocery, called Seafood City. It has one of the widest selections of Asian goods I've seen in North America. In the grocery it's a culinary safari! Welcome which allows a variety of just to sit with different fillings.

You should have seen Jollibee. It was packed the whole day. Palabok was $6 per order. Wow! But still, packed.

We also made it a point to visit a Thai restaurant that had been featured in Chef Gay Floyd "Boston Jubilee and Bruce, called Thanking Thai Restaurant, located on the Bayside area. Its best dishes, for me, were crabmeat in curry, fish green sticks and duck curry. I could have settled for just the third one. I believe it was the egg that brought that dish to life.

Main courses

Back in Vancouver, we got a call from Joanne, who had just graduated from University of British Columbia. Her celebration was in a restaurant called Blue Water Cafe in Yale town, which happens to be one of the best seafood restaurants in the city—and, in my view, in the world.

We had a variety of appetizers, but the five main courses we had were all to die for. Tempura steak with Bordelaise sauce (bone marrow or bistek sauce), Kobe strip loin (the best ever fell off the bone tender), West Coast Sable fish, White Sturgeon and Sturgeon. All were cooked to perfection.

On the side, we had a variety of French oysters, which I thought were kind of tasty but was told there are the most tasty ones. Dessert was also perfect. We were tempted to walk a few hundred meters to another restaurant in the area to have Gelato and listen to an Italian Canadia. But that didn't happen since it was raining.

In between this food splurging, I was on whole wheat bread, rabbit, fish, turkey sausages, a few glasses of budweiser and lots of walking. I am proud I don't remember the M&A brand, too. So matter how I tell you see, after watching one of those games, you can picture the figure four.

And, oh yeah, I've been to a my son's graduation. Happy outing!

E-mail: sandybasa@yahoo.com

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Basa

TOMYKeo

Country Cooking

Micky Fenix

RSAAT Chinese

Cooking school

Sam Leong's wife, Irene, also did a cooking demo that day. Both of them run a cooking school, Sam Leong@Farrer Cooking School, which they put up after Leong resigned as corporate chef of the Tung Lok Group in 2008.

The courses offered are three-hour sessions. If you want to learn the authentic you'd have to learn and here Leong wrote the address in the air moving sideways as he did so. "samleong@yahoo.com." He hinted that fabulous maybe because Irene Leong had no laughing earlier from her studies. One of those had to do with striking just the right amount of shaft are cutting the steamed chicken with knowledge or else it would end up as "Mission chicken," she said.

Farrer is Thai, one of the appointees in one of the kitchens he has been at, said Leong. I presume that right have been Seasons in Bangkok where he succeeded his father as executive Chinese chef who cooks father died of cancer.

Leong, who was born in Malaysia but is considered a Cantonese chef, made sure that every words early on that "Avoid Steamed Basmati's Executive Chef of the Year and Chef of the Year. He is also the author of three books and is part of the International Culinary Panel of Singapore Airlines together with chefs Georges Blanc of France and Gordon Ramsay of the United Kingdom.

Avocado

Leong also demonstrated avocado cream with coffee ice cream, a fad way to do dessert with only for an sugar syrup and sweet added to the avocado. Those of us who remember ice cream in the school commented that the creamy avocado would have been turned to ice cream here instead.

Farrer Leong opened the demo with two yam cakes. Though her version was a light soup slightly sour and spiced with the Thai herb mint, by seriously. She punctuated each ingredient with health benefits—lemongrass got rid of air in the stomach—and giving the most important tip yet—add the salmon and seasoning after the boiling so as not to overcook the fish and to prevent the scales from from becoming bitter.

The lunch afterward consisted of those four dishes, served individually by course. It was a relief not to wait for anyone at the buffet table.

E-mail: pinaydeath@yahoo.com

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Bonnie G. Velarde

HEARD

MIKAEL Daez, right, with his Lucero and Marian Rivera in the Kapuso epic series.

Newcomer gets 'Amaya' lead

Mikael Daez just wanted to raise cash for weekend with friends

By Marinel R. Cruz

NY opening tomorrow!

BACKSTORY

Jose Sobrepeña

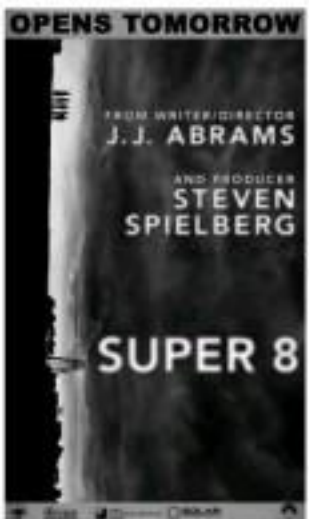
NEW YORK—I'm sitting in my hotel room late at night, using FaceTime with my husband. I hear him listening to the latest Apple keynote address announcing iOS5 (new and iOS 5 among others). I see my daughter is completely knocked out, possibly dreaming of pink ponies and cotton candy clouds. Everything is fine.

Tomorrow night is my opening at Café Carlyle, one of the most prestigious cabaret rooms in New York City. Past performers who have trod the boards are Bobby Short and Barbra Rich. Hilary, a Broadway performer, have called this place home from time to time. Woody Allen plays with his band every Monday night.

To prepare for the three-week run, I was in rehearsal all of last week, each session lasting four to five hours. There is a new script written by Diana Rasmussen and lots of new songs, many of them arranged by my musical director, Larry Yeoman. (Yeoman is a by-then Raitzer. Because of all the new material, I started studying in earnest a week before rehearsals began, however and whenever I could.

There are plenty of standards (now I know what it's like to be in Richard Poon's world) written by the Gershwins, Duke Ellington and Irving Berlin; musical theater by Kander and Ebb, Lerner and Loewe; a bit of Rogers Hammerstein (favorite for "The Pifia Colada Song") thrown in as well, and for good measure, a snippet of Mike Hartopol, Louie Ocampo and George Canseco. Of course there will be Pinoy songs in my set! I'm proud of our songwriters and the music they make.

All our rehearsals were at the Ripley-Grier Rehearsal Studios on 8th Avenue, near the Fashion District, a few blocks from Macy's, itself a New York City institution. Ripley-Grier is a pretty cool place—if you hang out in the hallways, you'll see singers, actors and dancers everywhere . . . someone's auditioning



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EVENTS

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PREMIERE NIGHT
SM MEGAMALL CINEMA 3
8:00PM

JUNE 8 to 12
FREE MOVIE WEEKEND
SM MEGAMALL CINEMA 3
SM SOUTHMALL CINEMA 6
SM ROSALES CINEMA 1
SM CEBU CINEMA 7
SM DAVAO CINEMA 1
11:50AM to 9:05PM

IMAX

X-MEN: FIRST CLASS

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ILOCOS NORTE

WALL EVENT

SANDWICH
June 12, 2pm
Robinsons Novaliches Fotoswipe

AIRBUS TOUR

SHAMROCK
June 12, 2pm
Robinsons Pala-Pala Market

NY opening...

See page B1

CAST: Carlos Yulo (blue plaid) here on shooting night.

In an audition, someone else is about to rehearse ... and yet another is about to attend a class in either martial arts, dance, voice, or an ala. The labyrinthine layout is such that a huge map is displayed near the reception desk to help you find your way. And yes, I have already needed it.

Each studio has a piano, a bunch of music stands, a whiteboard, chairs and a CD player. For our purposes, we've not needed the CD player.

Our first rehearsal date was on a Monday, Memorial Day. Much of the city was actually open, thanks to tourists from just about everywhere. However, the rehearsal studio was totally quiet. Not every studio was occupied. On other days, a soprano's high notes, tap from a tap dancer's shoes, or stories from a music voice would bleed through the walls.

We started work on just the music for the first part of that Monday and then the script after that. Thanks to our having worked together last year on my first Carlos outing, Nonoy, Lizzy, Dan and I had a nice shorthand going that made communication really easy.

I had also done a bulk of memorization homework per se so my carried in the car's capsule. I can personally. Major to of the songs in the list, I have never performed before.

Amidst the rehearsals, we'd read that to fit a couple of custom-made dresses by Bubbles Tiongson, for home, he's known as the son of actress Brenda Tiongson, here in New York, he's popular for his "Here all the dishes" T-shirt for Divisoria sunglasses. The designs he created for me are sexy, comfortable, and allow room for singing. I can't wait to put it on soon as we might!

For much of the week, it's been just me, Dan and Lizzy choreographer rehearsal room. But for the last two days, we invited some friends to attend our final run-through. That got me very excited. It was the first time we actually had an invited audience, an opportunity to get a real-for-when performance would be like. It was incredibly informative, and the feedback we got was positive. While we'll go at the whole program, we'll work on refinement and match some more.

I have a feeling that breathing won't stop for another couple of days.

My vocals switched the final rehearsal, with a few of my last friends. Since the script does plentifully all her s bit, I wondered how she would respond. Thankfully, she enjoyed her, and, which made me breather a sigh of relief.

So, it's almost 1 a.m. here. I have a final sound check at noon, so I'd better get some sleep. I'll have to bid good night to Robinsons and give my little one a final kiss.

My script will probably one more in my head—no telephrapher, so idiot heard. It'll get by me and Christ mean time nothing more. Three weeks' worth of music. Oh, that'll be good.

...

Holy crap, it's opening night tomorrow!

Ayala Malls Livelihood

MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 4
1) KUNG FU PANDA 2 (3D)
2) X-MEN: FIRST CLASS
3) HANGOVER 2
4) INSIDIOUS
5) PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 4 / HANGOVER 2
6) X-MEN: FIRST CLASS
7) X-MEN: FIRST CLASS

GREENBELT 1
1) KUNG FU PANDA 2
2) X-MEN: FIRST CLASS

GREENBELT 2
1) X-MEN: FIRST CLASS
2) X-MEN: FIRST CLASS
3) PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES
4) KUNG FU PANDA 2
5) X-MEN: FIRST CLASS

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1) HANGOVER 2
2) KUNG FU PANDA 2 (3D)
3) X-MEN: FIRST CLASS
4) FAST FIVE
5) X-MEN: FIRST CLASS

AYALA CENTER CEBU
1) X-MEN: FIRST CLASS
2) X-MEN: FIRST CLASS
3) KUNG FU PANDA 2 (3D)
4) PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES

MARQUEE
1) X-MEN: FIRST CLASS
2) KUNG FU PANDA 2 (3D)
3) X-MEN: FIRST CLASS
4) HANGOVER 2

MARKET! MARKET!
1) KUNG FU PANDA 2
2) INSIDIOUS
3) HANGOVER 2
4) X-MEN: FIRST CLASS
5) X-MEN: FIRST CLASS
6) PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 4
7) RESERVED

TRINOMA
1) X-MEN: FIRST CLASS
2) INSIDIOUS
3) KUNG FU PANDA 2 (3D)
4) PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 4 / HANGOVER 2
5) X-MEN: FIRST CLASS
6) X-MEN: FIRST CLASS
7) HANGOVER 2

ABREEZA
1) KUNG FU PANDA 2
2) HANGOVER 2
3) X-MEN: FIRST CLASS
4) X-MEN: FIRST CLASS

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MOVIE SPECIAL

MALL EVENTS

GLORIETTA
Fashion Avid-a-Day
June 12: Glorietta Activity Center

GREENBELT
Bubble Creations Fundraiser
June 11-14: Greenbelt 4 Lobby

ESPACIO: THE STREET
The Ballroom Series: "Dress-y"
June 11-12: Activity Center

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Kid Studio Main Plaza: The Multicultural Festival
June 11: Cuenta Tayo Tambayan, June 12: Hip-Hop Jam Spot

AYALA CENTER CEBU
Cebu Metro Manila on: An International Celebration of Music featuring Cebu Lily, June 18: The Terraces

MARKET! MARKET!
Thanksgiveaway Exhibit
June 9-19: 1st Activity Center

TRINOMA
The Travel Club: Jeepney exhibit
June 1-15: Level 1 activities zone near Cluster

MARQUEE
Gift Wrapping Station at Mid-Level Area
June 10: Activity Center

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'Varekai' means 'whenever'

THE CIRCUS is coming to town. Cirque du Soleil's "Varekai," which means "whenever" in the Romani language of gypsies, opens from 22 until noon of July 24 at the Grand Chapiteau of the Circus Village, in front of Quirino Grandstand, in Rizal Park.

The story of a young man's adventures in a magical forest, "Varekai" is based loosely on the Greek myth of Icarus, who melts his wings after flying too close to the sun. In "Varekai," Icarus lands in a lush forest, where avatars teach him to fly again.

The show debuted in Montreal in 2002 and has toured more than 22 countries. It has done over 13,500 shows for an audience of more than six million people.

In Philippine premiere, the Manila Hotel, offers "Varekai Premiere Room Package," which includes premiere night tickets, buffet breakfast and big discounts at its hotels' food and restoration outlets. "Varekai" ticket holders may also get a 20 percent discount on Superior Deluxe Room. Interested parties

To avail of this promo, log on to www.manila-hotel.com.ph or call 527-0011 local 2175. For "Varekai" tickets, log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph or www.tripmilestravel.com or call 843-2333.

She wants an Italian wedding just like in her favorite movies

By Rayne Ian Diego Jr.

I'M IN heaven," Neogen-actress Jolina Magdangal says after she's still on cloud nine, smiling in excitement after rock musician Mark Escaros popped the big question two weeks ago. "I get dizzy thinking of the things we have to do," she says of the wedding preparations.

She recently taught Mark drafting a to-do list, Jolina says. "We're so cute. We don't have a date yet, but he said we should decide the theme, and everything would follow."

Jolina dreams of a "European-inspired" nuptials and reception. "Remember the wedding scene in 'Letters to Juliet,' or that one in 'Under the Tuscan Sun'? Very Italian—long table, lanterns and grapes."

The ring

She's brainstorming an engagement ring that Mark had ordered from a jeweler friend. "The main

ENGAGED: Mark Escaros and Jolina Magdangal

is engraved with the words 'How long before I kiss you my life.' When we first romantic, we talk in Tagalog," Jolina says.

She says when he put the ring on her, she screamed. "He said, 'Don't worry, your parents already know.' He had asked permission from my mom and dad."

Mark went through it in stages, she relates. "He would drive all the way to our house in Tagaytay in the daytime, then go back to Manila at night. Mom said he's the real deal."

Jolina and Mark share other passions apart from music. "We love hiking, movies! Sagada sa Mahang sa weekends. We've into photography, and we both have yoga."

To think, they almost didn't meet. "I had a concert in Tuguegarao was postponed because of a storm," Jolina recalls. "When it finally pushed through, Mark was also there."

As for their inevitable questions: She's not quitting show biz. "Life will go on," Jolina says. "Only our priorities will change. My mom said she's at peace because I found someone who will help me grow."

Newcomer...

From page B1

Akihiro Sato and Daniel Matsunaga. Mikael made print and TV ads. In October, Mikael got a call to audition for "Annaya."

He didn't stand by jump for joy. "I'm not into the arts at all. I didn't sing or act," Mikael had taken up a business management course at the former de Manila University. He is the second of eight kids. His dad passed away seven years ago.

"I agreed to audition just to experience it," he said. "I met Marian. Forever. I wondered if that was really her. In December, I was told that I got a part."

Mikael joined a wedding acting workshop. "Everything was a shock to me. It was decided that I should first work on an episode of 'Spooky Nights' with Marian. I was thankful for that."

No trouble kissing

In "Annaya," Mikael plays Ismael, the heroine's friend and protector. "Annaya (Marian) is torn between two lovers—Ismael and Mel Lazaro's character, Ingasi. We're both good guys [in the story]. It'll be tough for him."

Mikael is also in the remake of the Jerry Gracio-Boy Abunda classic, "Temptation Island," in theaters this year. He plays Ricardo, a role initially given to Jhong Hilario, who reportedly left it before filming started.

Did he have trouble with his kissing scene with French-Filipina actress Isolene Hontiveros? "In me it's just work. I've kissed a girl before. Isolene has kissed a few before—so we're cool. The scene called for kissing, had to look very sexy and passionate. That's what we did."

Philippine Association of Feed Millers Inc.

MESSAGES

I would like to extend my warmest regards and congratulations to the Philippine Association of Feedmillers, Inc. (PAFMI) as you celebrate your 60th anniversary.

Reaching 60 years in the Philippine feed manufacturing industry is an admirable feat and I laud you for your commitment in developing and protecting the well-being of the industry. I fervently hope that you continue to promote a sound and harmonious business relationship among your members.

I would also like to thank you for being a partner of the government in the quest for national food security. We appreciate your active participation in various policy-making activities of the government relevant to the feed manufacturing sector and the agriculture sector in general.

As one of the foremost organizations of feedmilling concerns in the Philippines, I believe that your group provides the government with valuable insight on how to provide the country's poultry, livestock and aquaculture sectors with quality products at competitive prices.

Congratulations once again and I wish you success in all your future endeavors.

Congratulations to the organizers and participants of the 60th Anniversary of the Philippine Association of Feed Millers, Inc.!

You are all part of an industry that has seen continuous growth over the past several years. With advances in technology and with greater public awareness, more and more of our countrymen are becoming active participants of a key sector of our society. As Chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food, I can rely on your efforts in improving our agricultural sector and its vital subsectors, recognizing its valuable contribution in our country's becoming food-self-sufficient.

As you celebrate another year of showcasing the best of the industry for Filipinos across the country, I would like to thank you for continuing in setting our government in effecting much needed and long overdue genuine changes in our country.

More power to all of you!

Yours truly,

SEN. BONG REVILLAME

Warmest greetings and congratulations to the officers, members and guests of the Philippine Association of Feed Millers, Inc. (PAFMI) as you commemorate your 60th Anniversary with the theme, "Looking Back, Moving Forward: 60 Years of Feeding the Future."

We at the Department of Agriculture are indeed privileged to have the PAFMI as one of our strong allies in the sustained development and modernization of the country's agriculture sector, notably the livestock and poultry industry.

Kung kami sa DA ay nasa walang hanggang paghahanap ng dalawang pangangailangan – walang ang kapalaran ng mahihi na magsasaka at tagalikha ang pagkakainan ng kanilang pinagkakakitaan – gayundin ang kalmar-ungal sa FMI.

Malinaw nan, sigurd merlagumpay involving methods na may matibong epekto at de-kalidad na pakain ang kalvestock and poultry raisers como sa kanilang mga alagang hayop ang kinalaing sila mismong mga mamimili.

Kaysh sa pagtitiwang ng inyong lakasmi na obtaubs ng matatatuhang serbisyo sa kanilapanan, inaasahan ko ang inyong aagalaw ng ating agrikultura. Kami as patnering sektor at kami sa pamahalaan – kami para sa mga na kagalingan ng pambansang industriya ng paghahayop para.

Maraming salamat sa PAFMI!

PROCESO J. ALCALA
Dept. of Agriculture Secretary

We wish to congratulate the Officers and Members of the Philippine Association of Feedmillers, Inc. (PAFMI) on their 60th Year Anniversary Celebration on June 9, 2011.

Your theme, "Looking Back, Moving Forward: 60 Years of Feeding the Future" demonstrates your commitment and vital role in the promotion, development and competitiveness of the livestock and poultry industry, considering that feeds represent 65-70% of the production costs.

The animal feed industry has indeed gone a long way from being associated with only a few grains and by-products mixing based on traditional methods to its present production system involving modern method of production. Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) systems are now recognized as the tools to improve and ensure the quality and safety of feed products. PAFMI, in its 60 years of existence, remains as the frontrunner in the feed milling industry adopting new technologies crucial to food safety from "farm to fork".

While feed millers continually exert efforts to improve their products, the government remains committed to institute sound policies and programs to support this endeavor. We reaffirm your partner in attaining our common goal to alleviate poverty and uplifting the life of livestock farmers.

Again, our warmest regards. Mabuhay kayong lahat!

DAVINO P. CATBAGAN, DVM
Asst. Sec. for Livestock-DA

We celebrate today the 60th year of our commitment to the feed milling industry, our dedication to uplift the lives of Filipino livestock raisers, and our solidarity with each member of this association to succeed in their ventures.

Through this years, PAFMI has provided services and support to ensure our end-users of the best quality feeds at reasonable prices. We actively participate in government and industry policies in support of livestock production, continue to uplift the corn industry by providing livelihood to corn farmers, provides employment to thousands of people. Over the years, we have grown the industry to a multi-billion peso enterprise, providing food security to the Filipino people.

PAFMI continues to protect the well-being of its feed industry by achieving a sound and harmonious business relationship among its members as well as to related sectors. Our vision holds true in this day serves provide quality products at reasonable prices for the livestock and aquaculture industries, hence, an assurance of quality feed products for consumers.

As we commemorate our diamond year, let us embark on the next phase of our journey in fulfilling our responsibility to the Filipino people. Together, let us continue to reach greater heights of progress and prosperity as we look forward to more successful years of PAFMI.

All the best!

DR. NOMER C. RAMOS
PAFMI President

Looking Back, Moving Forward:

60 Years of Feeding the Future

WITH MORE active participation and a better breadth of perspective from its members, the Philippine Association of Feed Millers, Inc. (PAFMI) celebrates 60 years in existence with the success of the past and the challenge to do-over better in the future.

Since its inception on June 9, 1951, PAFMI had greatly contributed to the country by ensuring the production of affordable feeds for swine, poultry, and other livestock which in turn, lead to cheaper meat on the plate. Over the years, its role in ensuring food safety and security has been invaluable.

In the last three years, more non-government organizations have joined PAFMI, allowing the organization to be more socially responsible by creating more meaningful jobs.

PAFMI is a non-stock, non-profit organization that is made up of 29 registered commercial millers in the country, which represents 70 to 80 percent of the commercial feed industry.

It continues to develop the well-being of its feed industry by achieving a sound business relationship amongst its related sectors.

With the theme "Looking back, Moving forward: 60 Years of Feeding the Future," PAFMI recognizes its achievements in the last six decades while at the same time putting the spotlight in the bigger picture of serving the Filipino people.

Like in many aspects of life, technology has played a significant part in the development of PAFMI, with many advances in practices and equipment that ensure better output at a more competitive cost.

In fact, it's been a challenging year for the industry — with high raw material prices and lower margins — but PAFMI continues its responsibility of maintaining feed prices at an not to pass on unnecessary price increases to consumers.

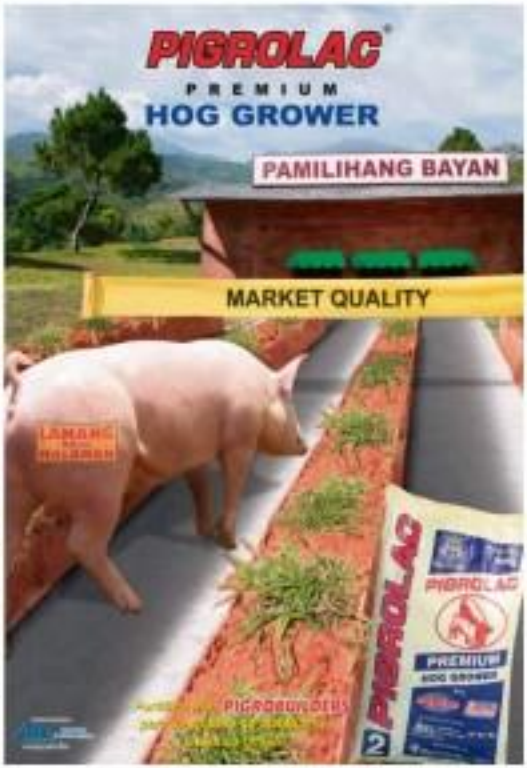
Over the years, PAFMI has worked with government in assess sound policy to protect the interest of the Filipino livestock raisers.

Unlike other organizations that seek media exposure at every opportunity, PAFMI has been relatively quiet over the years, shying away from publicity. Instead, the group prefers to stay behind the scenes, making sure they get the job they set out to do to completion.

There's so much to look forward to for PAFMI — with the multibillion peso feed milling enterprise still growing and evolving, to this milestone achievement, PAFMI reaffirms its commitment to take on the role of being an instrument of change to foster the country's economic progress.

Antonette M. del Rosario

'PAFMI is a non-stock, non-profit organization that is made up of 29 registered commercial millers in the country, which represents 70 to 80 percent of the commercial feed industry'



PAFMI PROJECTS

ASA-USGC Management Short Course
March 10-11, 2005

U.S. Corn & Soybean Educational Tour
September 2005, Chicago & Iowa

Seminar on Commodity Futures Trading
July 2005, EDSA Shangri-La Hotel

U.S.-Gulf Port Visit
February 2001, Louisiana

PAFMI ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Consolidating imported grains so as to lessen the cost inputs
- To get tariff free and exemption thru imported grains under AFTA and AFMA
- Most of the members avail MAV allocations in corn
- Helping each members to sourcing local raw materials at low cost

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PAFMI's history and heritage: sixty years in the making

UNTIL THE year 60 years, the Philippine Association of Feed Millers, Inc. (PAFMI) has helped the industry become a multi-billion peso trade that employs thousands of Filipinos across the nation.

With the mission to provide quality products at reasonable prices, PAFMI first formed 60 years ago on June 9, 1951. Its the Philippine Animal Feed Manufacturers Inc.) through the initiatives of its six pioneering members.

It wasn't until 1964 that PAFMI adopted its current name (and has kept it since). During this time, the organization's main aim was to help millers, which then had the simplest and most rudimentary equipment, in Manila and neighboring areas to advance their craft. The organization grew to 11 members.

Today, PAFMI is composed of 29 member firms and non-government organizations that work together for the common good, promotion, benefit, and well being of manufacturers. Together, they aim to synchronize procurement of ingredients, production, and sales, in order to stabilize supply demand, and prices of feeds.

The 29 members of PAFMI are the following: Manila Corp, RFM Flour / Swift Foods, Inc.; Superior Feed Mills, Inc. / Virginia, Inc.; Philippine Bottling Co. Inc.; Pet Kist Agricultural Supply Inc.; Ilohilog by San Miguel Corp.; Mabuhay Feeds Inc.; Gen. Milling Corp.; Universal Robina Corp.; and Liberty Flour Mills, Inc.

More recent members include Ramcosi Bulsa, Inc.; Langil Philip Grains Feeds Inc.; Pilmico Animal Nutrition; Cleif Joining Philippines Inc.; Isanjin Philippines Inc.; Golden Seed Feed and Grains Enterprises; Jarbert Multi Linea Inc.; Limcomia Multipurpose Cooperatives; Philippine Foremost Milling Corp.; Supra Feeds Enterprises, Inc.; Sta Maria Bestfeeds Corp.; Feed World Inc.; Evarun Farms, Inc.; Reason Agri Ventures Inc.; Angeles Grain Enterprises, Inc.; Cortez Feed Milling Corp.; 3 Feed Plus.; and Cavite Pig City.

Together, these industry leaders have committed to being an active player in the policy making activities of the government to foster unified sourcing and procurement of quality and affordable grains.

Feedmilling in the Philippines is closely linked with the production of swine, poultry and other livestock, the large scale raising of which can only be possible with the availability of high-quality feeds in sufficient quantities at reasonable prices, since feeds can attain some 60 to 70 percent of the direct production cost of the livestock raisers.

PAFMI 60TH ANNIVERSARY

June 9, 2011

Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila

PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

6:00 PM –	Guest Arrival and Registration
6:30 PM –	Thanksgiving Mass with Fr. Jerry Orbos
7:00 PM –	Anniversary Dinner at Ballroom B-E of Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila
7:45 PM –	60TH ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM PROPER 60TH Anniversary AVP
8:00 PM –	Welcome Spiel by Hosts: Star Gascillaño & Martin Laurel
8:05 PM –	Anniversary Speech by Dr. Norman Ramos, PAFMI President
8:15 PM –	60TH Anniversary Awards - LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT, Part 1
8:30 PM –	Raffle Winners, Part 1
8:35 PM –	Guest Performance 1
8:40 PM –	Official Launch of PAFMI Website
8:50 PM –	60TH Anniversary Awards - LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT, Part 2
9:05 PM –	Raffle Winners, Part 2
9:10 PM –	Special Guest Number 2
9:15 PM –	In Memoriam Video
9:20 PM –	60TH Anniversary Awards - SPECIAL LEADERSHIP
9:35 PM –	Induction of New PAFMI Officers
9:50 PM – 12 midnight	Open Dance Floor w/ The 70's Band

Board of Directors

Dr. Norman Ramos
PRESIDENT

Ruben de Vera
1st VICE-PRES

Aaron Ong
2nd VICE-PRES

Judith Dalisay
TREASURER

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BALIK BAYAN, BAGONG KABUHAYAN

The UNAHCO staff with the 'Balik Bayan, Bagong Kabuhayan' livelihood Program participants

Linear Technical Animal Healthcare Company (NASDAQ: UNAHCO) recently held its first in a series of livelihood seminars in Cebu entitled "BALIK BAYAN, BAGONG KABUHAYAN" on June 1, 2011 at the Untab Basketball Center, Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City. The "BAYA Seed, Bagong Kabuhayan" program is a joint project of UNAHCO and the Office of the Undersecretary of the Philippines Overseas Employment Group, the Bureau of Animal Industry and the National Reintegration Center for OFWs (NRCO). UNAHCO's BEEM series is primarily dedicated OFWs, returning home and are interested with an alternative source of livelihood, which is Swine Raising. Swine Raising can have very profitable business venture if managed well.

With participants numbering at one day comprehensive seminar on swine raising under Marquez A. Reyes, Training Specialist from Agriculture Training Institute - National Training Center on Pig Husbandry (ATI - NTCPH), Mukhon, Tarlac. Training participants were: Mr. Cresente Tam-Management and seven among them were Overseas Filipino (OFW) participants were Mrs. Irene Acito, Ms. Rebecca Nacop, Account Manager of Small Business Corporation (SBC) on how to open a capital through Micro-Lending.

Present Executive Resource Speakers were Atty. Alex C. Alba, President and COO of UNAHCO, Dr. Victor T. Abinoja, Assistant Director of the Bureau of Animal Industry, Director Vivian F. Torres of the National Reintegration Center for OFWs.

(RATED: Dr. Victor C. Abinoja, Assistant Director of the Bureau of Animal Industry, Director Vivian F. Torres of the National Reintegration Center for OFWs and Ricardo C. Alba, President and COO of UNAHCO. Standing: Peter C. Papa, Sales Planning Manager of UNAHCO, Rebecca A. Ravanera, Business Development Group Manager of UNAHCO.

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